

PITTS

The Attitude of the English
Periodicals Toward American
Literature 1856-1870

Graduate School

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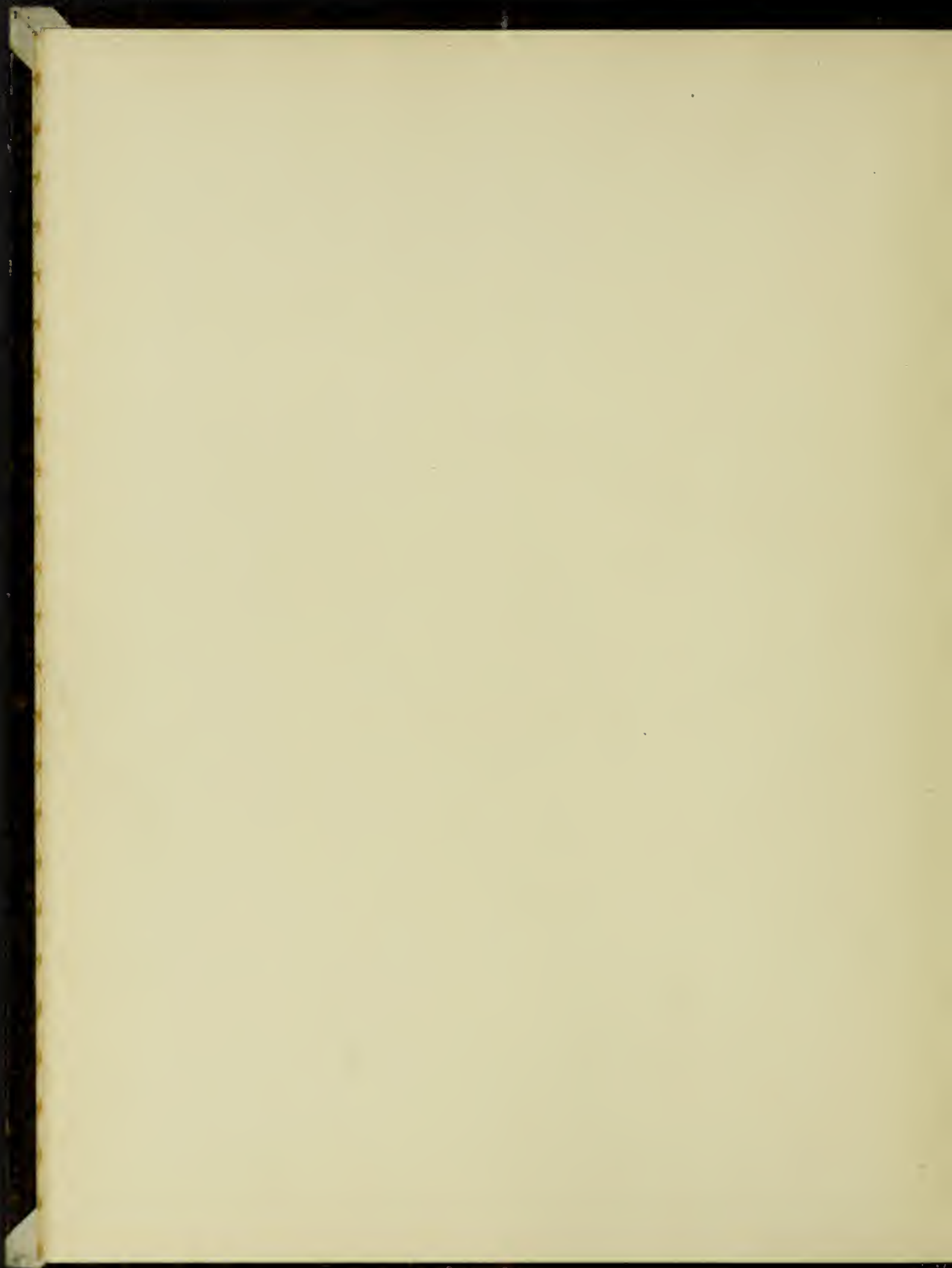
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THE ATTITUDE OF THE ENGLISH PERIODICALS
TOWARD AMERICAN LITERATURE, 1856-1870

BY

FLORENCE ELIZABETH PITTS, A. B., 1904

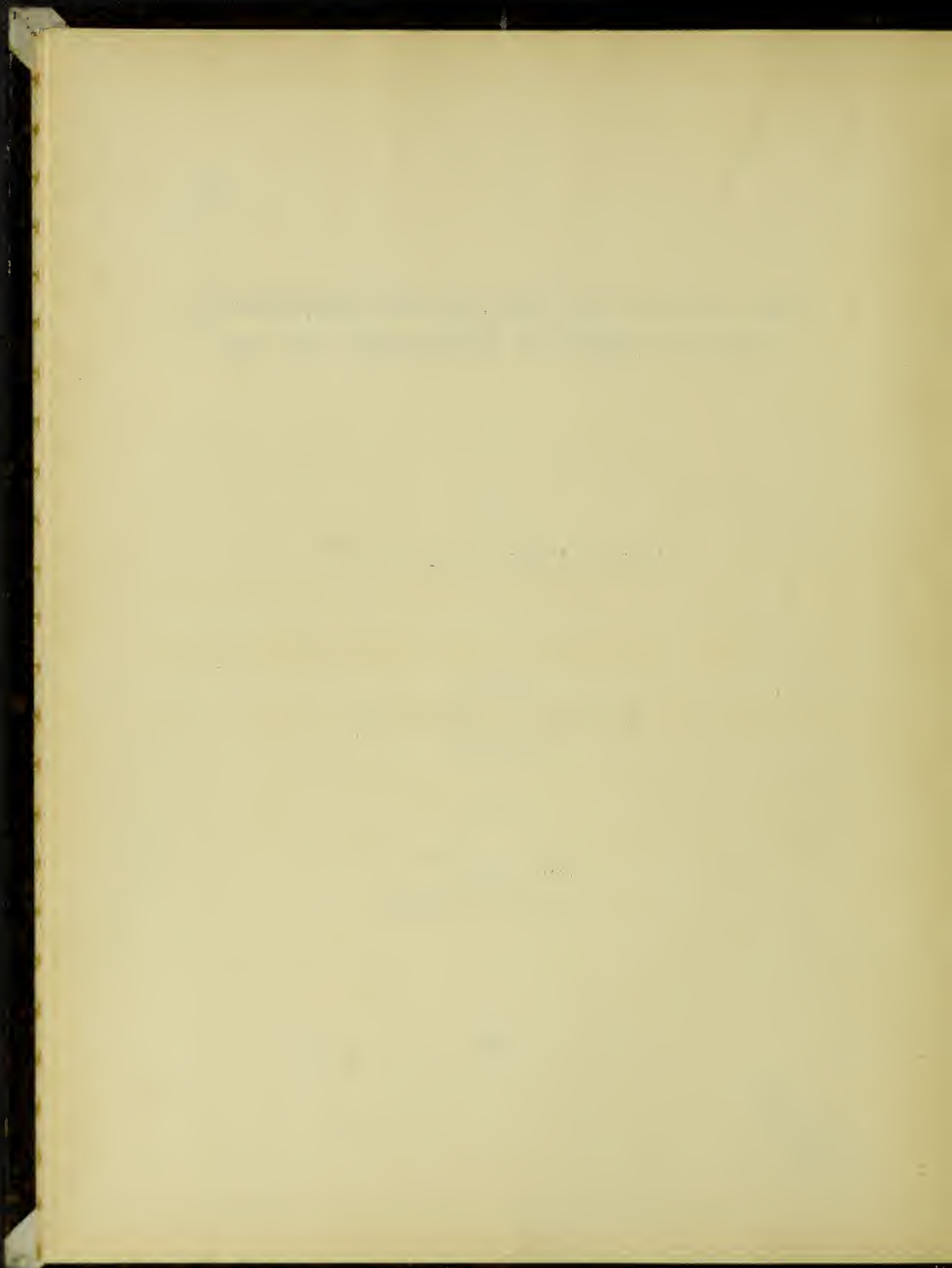
THESIS

For the Degree of Master of Arts
in English

IN THE

GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

1906



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

June 1. 1906.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

Florence Elizabeth Pitts, A. B., 1904.

ENTITLED *The Attitude of the English Periodicals
toward American Literature, 1856-1870.*

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

OF *Master of Arts*

Samuel Kilham Dodge

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF *the English Language & Literature.*

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Whether the English reviewers were fair to American authors during the Civil War, or whether they were prejudiced by their political tenets is a question which can hardly be answered definitely.

An investigation of the magazines of that time, however, shows certain things that justify us in drawing at least tentative conclusions.

As a background for this investigation, the condition of American literature at the time in question must be considered. Though seemingly barren of interest and meager in productiveness, it is not wholly without results. Pure letters unbiased were, indeed, rare; most of the productions being more or less actuated by partisanship. There were however, according to Newcomer's History of American Literature, nine works of importance published during the five years of the war. And on broadening the scope somewhat and looking at the five years before and after the war we find the publication of twelve more books of note. Short this list may seem, but when one notices that ten of the authors mentioned are ten of our most eminent literary names, and that in the list of twenty one books are included The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table, The Marble Faun, Elsie Venner, Tales of a Wayside Inn, Drum Taps, Snow Bound, Innocents Abroad, The Commemoration Ode and Motley's Dutch Republic, its importance increases. At least ten men of letters whose earlier work had brought them before the eyes of the literary world, were still producing. Any new work from a well known author usually excites comment in critical circles. So some notice of American affairs literary on the part of the English reviews, during the civil war period, may justly be expected. How many of these books were reviewed and which ones were not is the question before us. That they should not notice the vast numbers of



books pouring from our press of merely passing interest is not surprising; that they should take cognizance of men like Longfellow, Holmes and Emerson, we do perhaps expect.

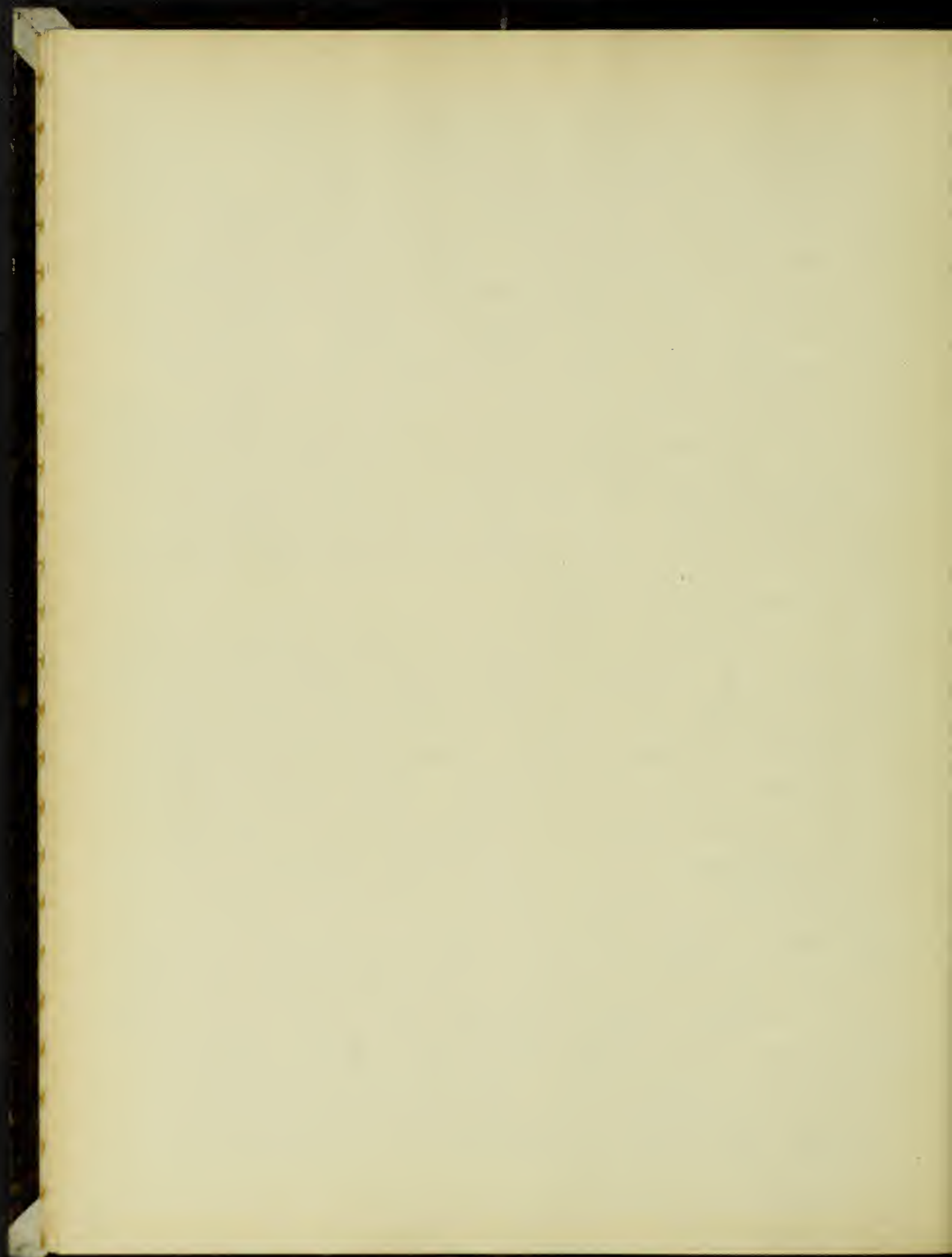
To turn a moment to the development of American literature to appreciate more fully just the state of letters at this given period. Not until the nineteenth century could we be said to have a literature at all. Until that time theology and theological writings, and then later politics and political utterances, had filled the place of pure letters. The England that saw the publication of Milton's masterpieces, of Dryden's works and Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress saw in its then dependent colonies, only such didactic expressions as the Bay Psalm Book, Wigglesworth's Day of Doom and Mather's Wonders of the Invisible World. During the eighteenth century the contrast is still sharper; for it proved a harvest of English letters, and only a dearth of American expression. While Swift, Addison, De Foe, Richardson, Fielding, Gray, Goldsmith, Burke, Burns and Wordsworth made English literature rich. America received only two or three lasting contributions. Poor Richard's Almanac and Franklin's Autobiography are perhaps the only books known to those who have not studied the situation. The reasons for this vast discrepancy are only hypothetical. Barrett Wendell asserts^x that it is because of a singular and unusual isolation on the part of America, an entire absence of any commercial pressure and of any violent political agitation, all of which resulted in a national inexperience that retarded national growth. These may be the reasons or it may be that because we were yet a pioneer people and had not arrived at the stage of literary expression, that our literature is small. Or again the national trait of commercialism or the practical may have precluded the possibility of a literature until a late date.

^x Hist. of Amer. Lit. by Barrett Wendell, page 116.

1. 100.

True it is, however, that not until the nineteenth century when national independence and new commercial and political problems were stirring the people's thought, did the literature of America in any way compare with that of England. Then with the writers of the New York school, including Irving, Bryant and Cooper, and later the writers of the New England Renaissance, Emerson, Hawthorne, Thoreau and the others did we reach a distinct attainment. And even then the comparison with the English achievements shows rather that at last we have a beginning than that the climax of our letters is reached. For the romantic poets as well as a little later Scott, Dickens, Thackeray and George Eliot were making that period glorious and setting a standard to which, so far at least, we have not attained. All we can expect, then, of the English reviews is recognition and encouragement, not necessarily fulsome praise.

The numbers of reviews which we might investigate is legion. The ones whose attitudes are perhaps the most representative as well as the weightiest are, "The Edinburgh Review, The Quarterly Review, The Westminster Review, Blackwoods, Frasers, The Cornhill Magazine, The Saturday Review and the Athenaeum. Perhaps the vogue and authority of the early review can not be appreciated now in this day of the illustrated magazine and of the multitudinous newspapers. But at the beginning of the nineteenth century they spoke "with authority" and had almost the power of making or unmaking the success of an author or book. This can not be said of the earliest magazines, the Gentleman's and Monthly Review, for instance, for they were of more frequent publication and in covering a vast range of subjects could not be authoritative along any line. With the opening of the nineteenth century, however, came the appearance of the Edinburgh Review, the



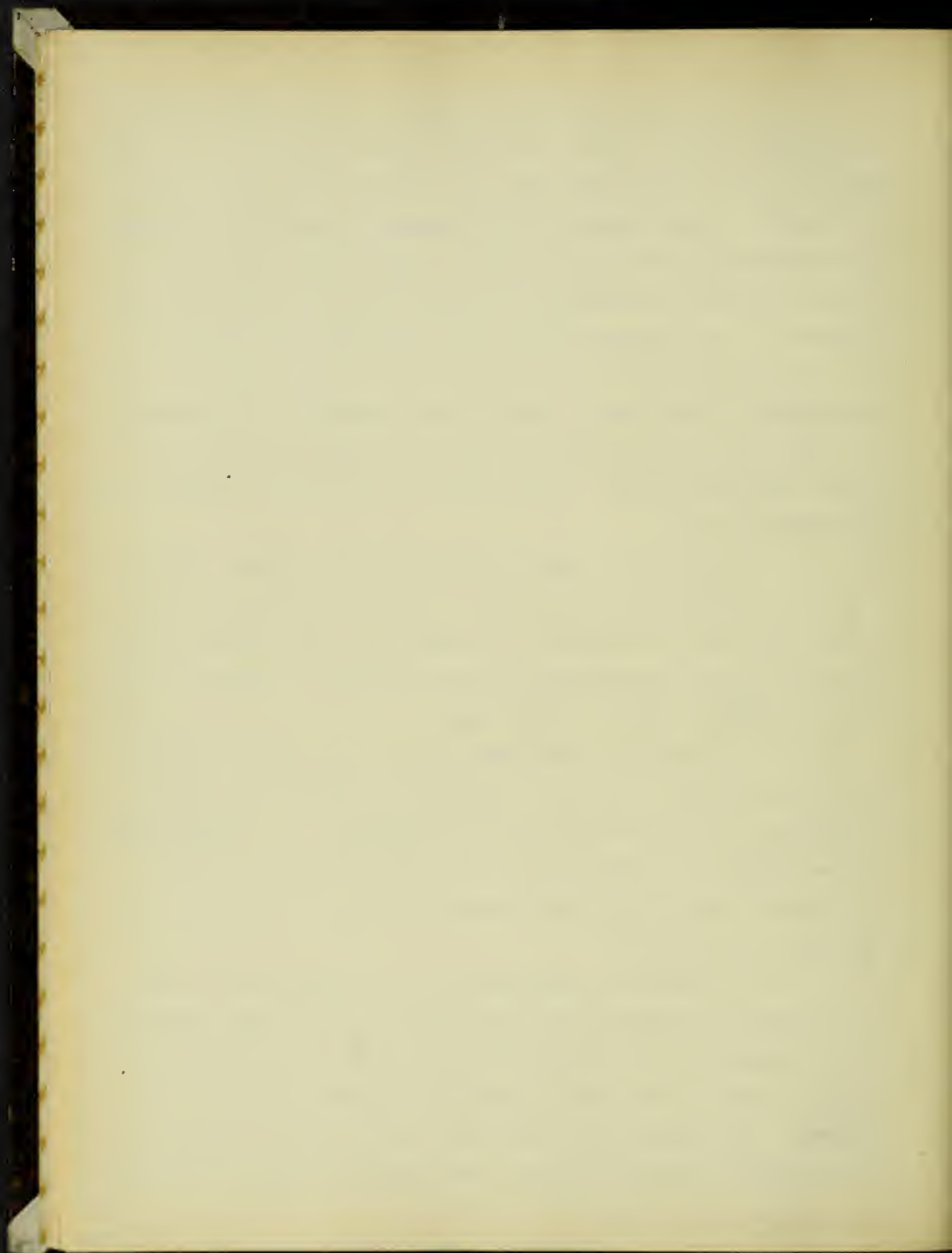
first quarterly, which with its followers was to set a new standard of literary review. "What the Academy has done for France, the quarterly and monthly reviews have done for England", says Arthur Waugh in the Critic.^X The articles in these magazines were very much longer than those of the preceding journals. They attempted thorough reviews of the works in question and did not hesitate to give arbitrary judgments. It is these journals whose attitudes are of interest to us. Of the eight chosen for investigation three are quarterly, three are monthly and two weekly. Two of the quarterlies, The Edinburgh and Quarterly Reviews are avowed rivals, the former being Whig in policy, the latter Tory. To say that both maintained an avowed policy we believe is true.

The Tory policy was that of conservatism, always clinging to the old, the established, the tried. That we should find a review of such sentiment on the side of the South, the South settled and established by the more aristocratic English people, who maintained old English customs, does not surprise us.

The Edinburgh on the other hand is Whig, the new and the untried appeals more to them. We should not expect such a journal to side with the South and we are not disappointed. The Westminster Review as far as we could judge has no such avowed policy as its colleagues, although the general method in treating subjects is very much the same as theirs.

Of the monthlies, Blackwood's is the oldest and on account of its age and the associations connected with it, the most important. It was originated in the first place as a rival of the Edinburgh, so we should expect it to side perhaps with the Quarterly against that review. "Our salon is the place where Tories most do congregate", writes William Blackwood in 1834. And indeed we do find these maga-

^X The Critic Vol. 40 pg. 25.



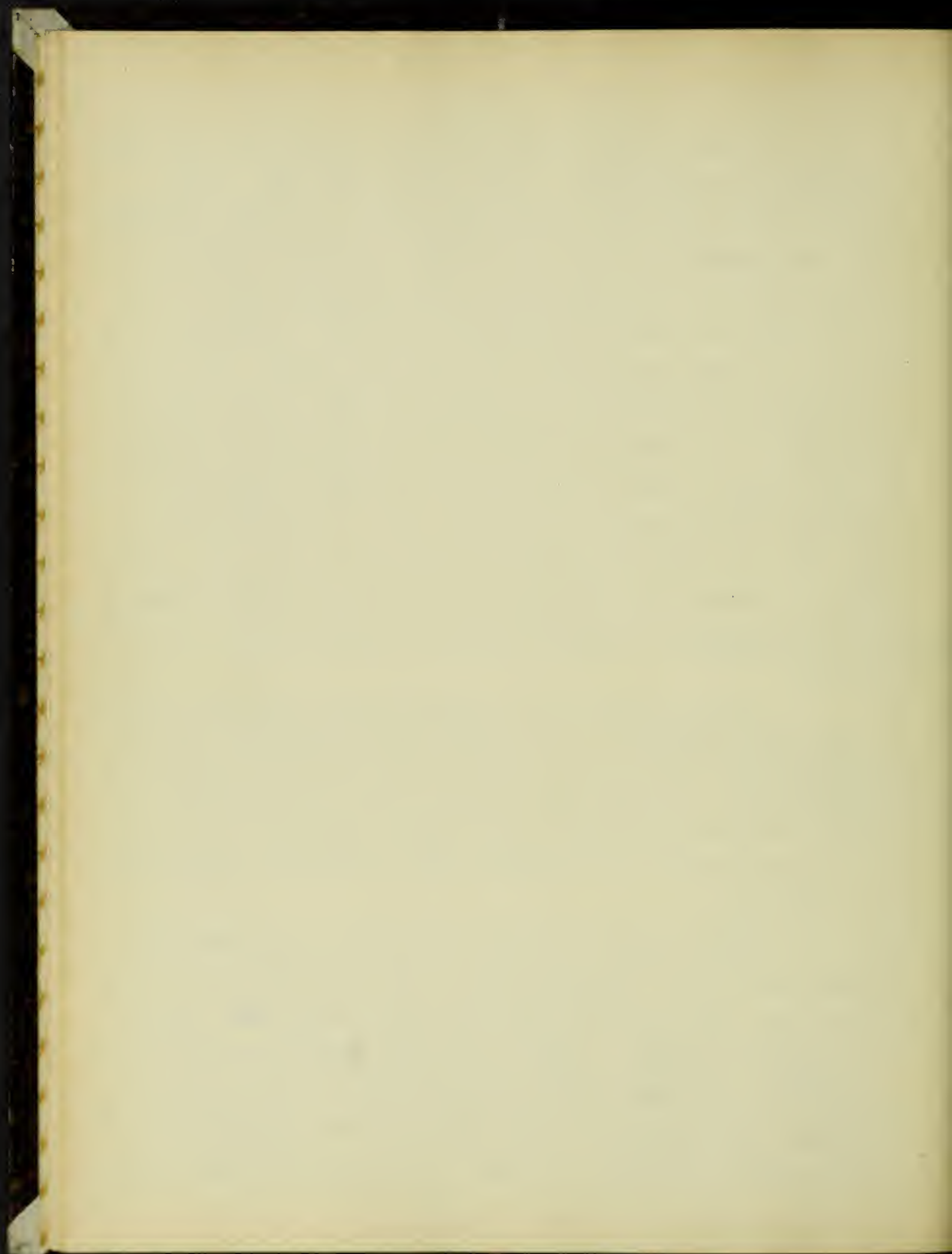
zines together on the side of the South.

Although Fraser's Magazine was not started until 1830, seventeen years after Blackwood's, it soon rose to high rank. Many famous authors contributed to its pages, and it was always interesting and always popular until its end in 1882. I believe it had no such avowed political tendencies as the journals mentioned above. In the civil conflict in America, it sided with the North and takes more cognizance of things literary than any other like magazine. The Cornhill started in 1860 lends little to our purposes for it almost completely ignores us. No choice as between North and South can be detected. It was started so late in the history of the English review that it had acquired a certain dignity and maturity that the other journals did not have. It discussed political things less than did they, rather filling its pages with the original publications of eminent authors. The London Magazine is omitted because its volumes are not in the library.

Of the two weeklies, the Saturday Review is the more caustic. In the Atlantic Monthly,^X W. M. Rossetti makes the following statement concerning it; "A paper which had gone in for the South with a vehemence only balanced by its virulence against the North." As a whole it is less reliable in its judgments than the monthlies, and too than the Athenaeum.

Of the two other weeklies, the Academy and the Spectator, we can say little. The former does not begin until 1869, and is thus outside our range, and the particular volumes of the latter desired, are not in the library. They are both more devoted to art and literature than the Saturday Review and the Athenaeum, but if we could investigate the Spectator, we would according to Mr. Rossetti,^X find it on the side of the North. We will not investigate the comic papers,

^X At. Mo. England's Opinion on Amer. War. Vol. 100.



although they according to the same authority are for the South.

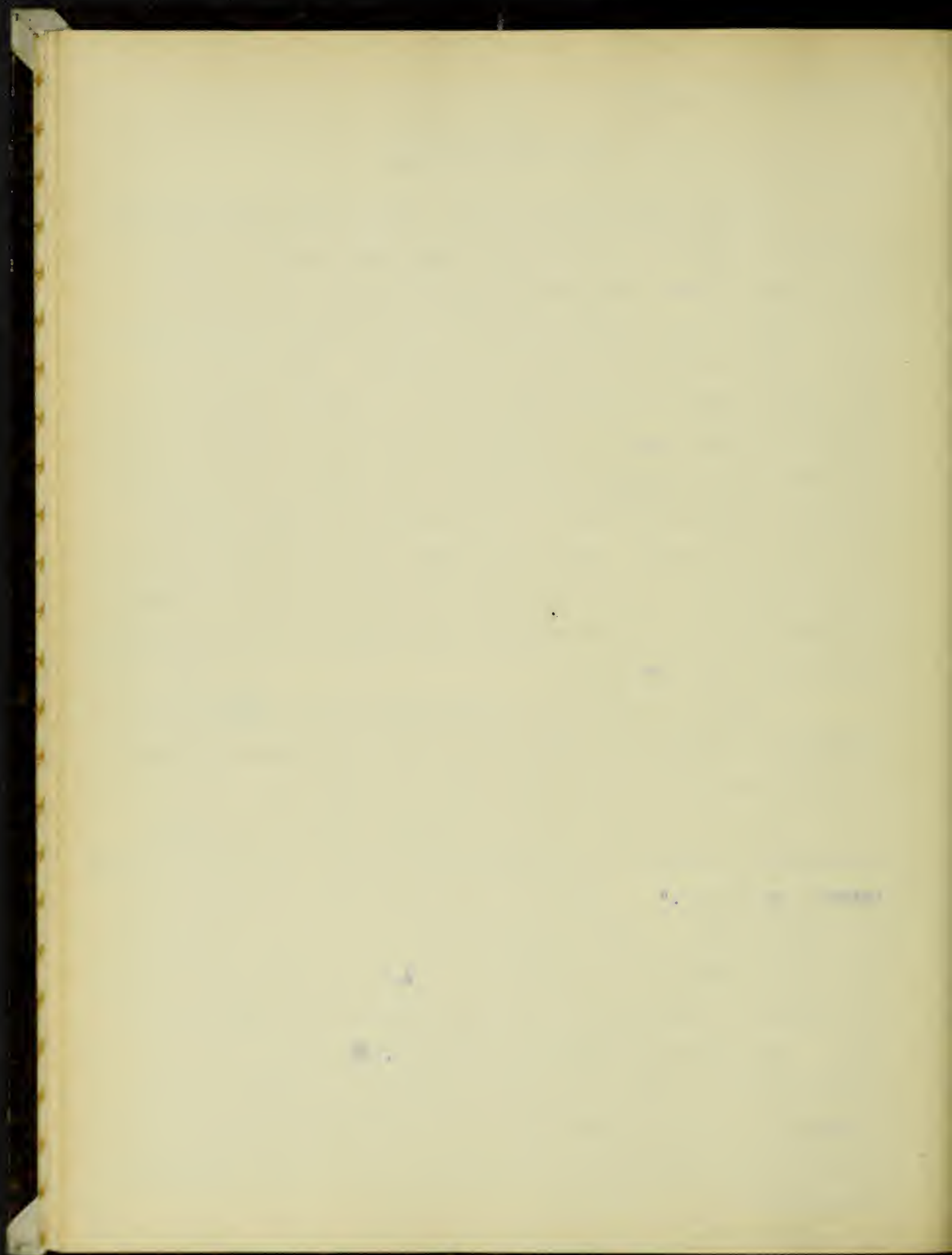
THE EDINBURGH REVIEW.

We have said we should expect fairness from the Edinburgh reviewers. During the fifteen years from 1856 to 1871, we find in their pages thirteen articles on subjects connected with America. At the head of these articles stand the names of forty seven books, thirty six of which are of American authorship. The articles are not exactly reviews of these books but are on general subjects, the conclusions being based on a perusal of the books in question. Of the thirteen articles during these fifteen years only one is of a purely literary character, and this is a consideration of Edgar Allan Poe, his life and his works. This is extremely harsh and seemingly unfair. As an explanation for this or rather to see if we could find an explanation for this, we have summarized the various political sentiments of the other twelve articles.

Scattered through the fifteen years we find sincere expressions of sympathy and admiration for the United States, we find it in July '56 in Oct. '60 in Apr. '61 and in Apr. '66.

In '56^x we find, "There is a mighty polity in the great commonwealth founded by our children which may well challenge the admiration of statesmen." Again in '61^x "If we differ from them it is not from any want of deep interest in their welfare and a cordial desire for the restoration of peace." And again after the war[‡] "Readily and frankly we congratulate the American people on the result of the war." And this is in general the attitude. We find in '62[‡] a leaning toward the South, and even in one place a sentiment for its recognition. "Can we indeed long avoid entertaining seriously the question of the recognition of the Southern States as an independent government?"

^xEdin. Rev. July '56. ^xOct. '61, [‡]April '66, [‡]Jan. '62. Oct. '62 Jan. '63.

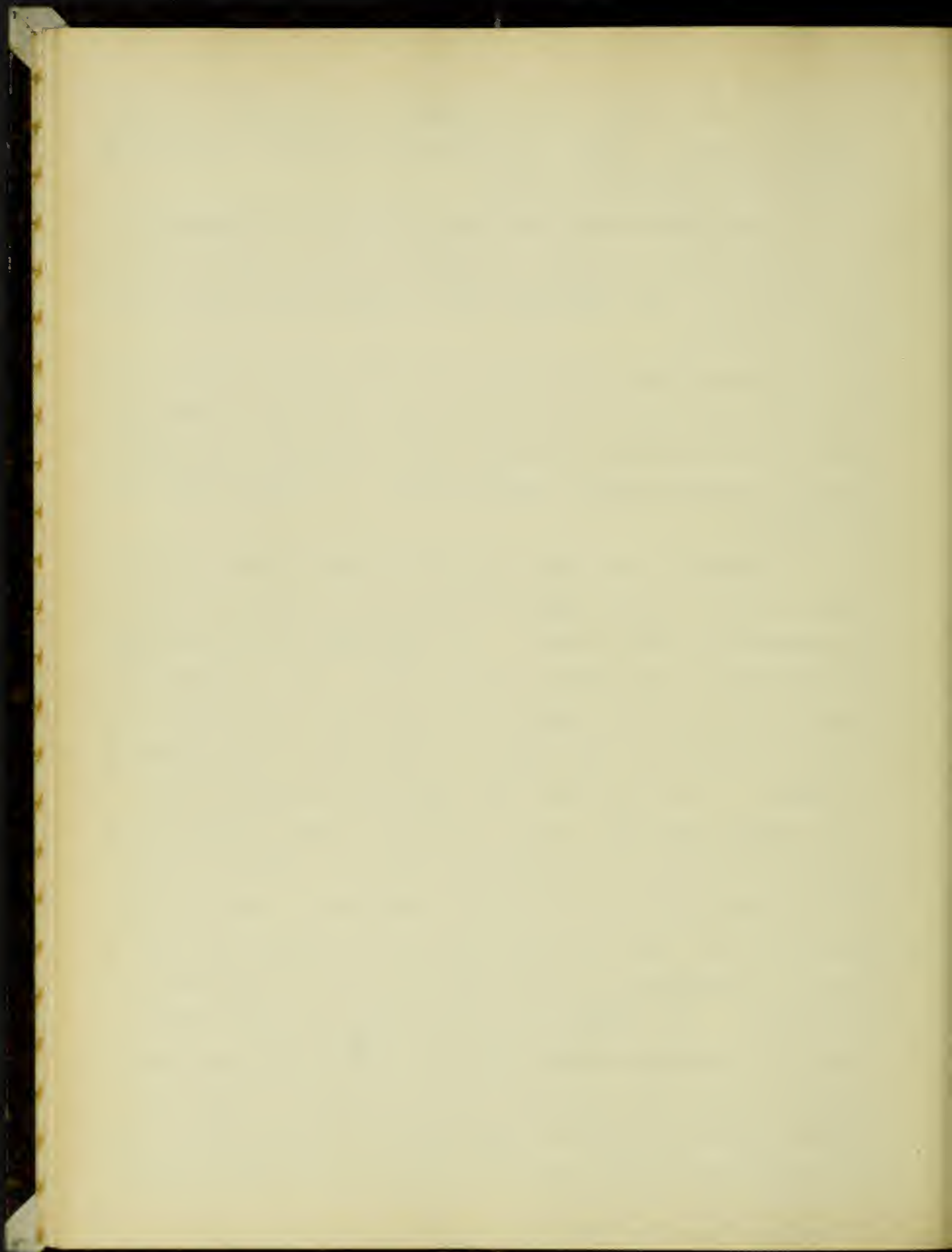


"It is difficult to deny that the recognition of the South is a mere question of time." Indeed the only thing that seems to have hindered this recognition was expediency.

Their attitude was not radical, however, for although we find manifestations of Southern sympathies, they are usually explained by admiration for some particular trait. And everywhere we find their hatred of slavery.

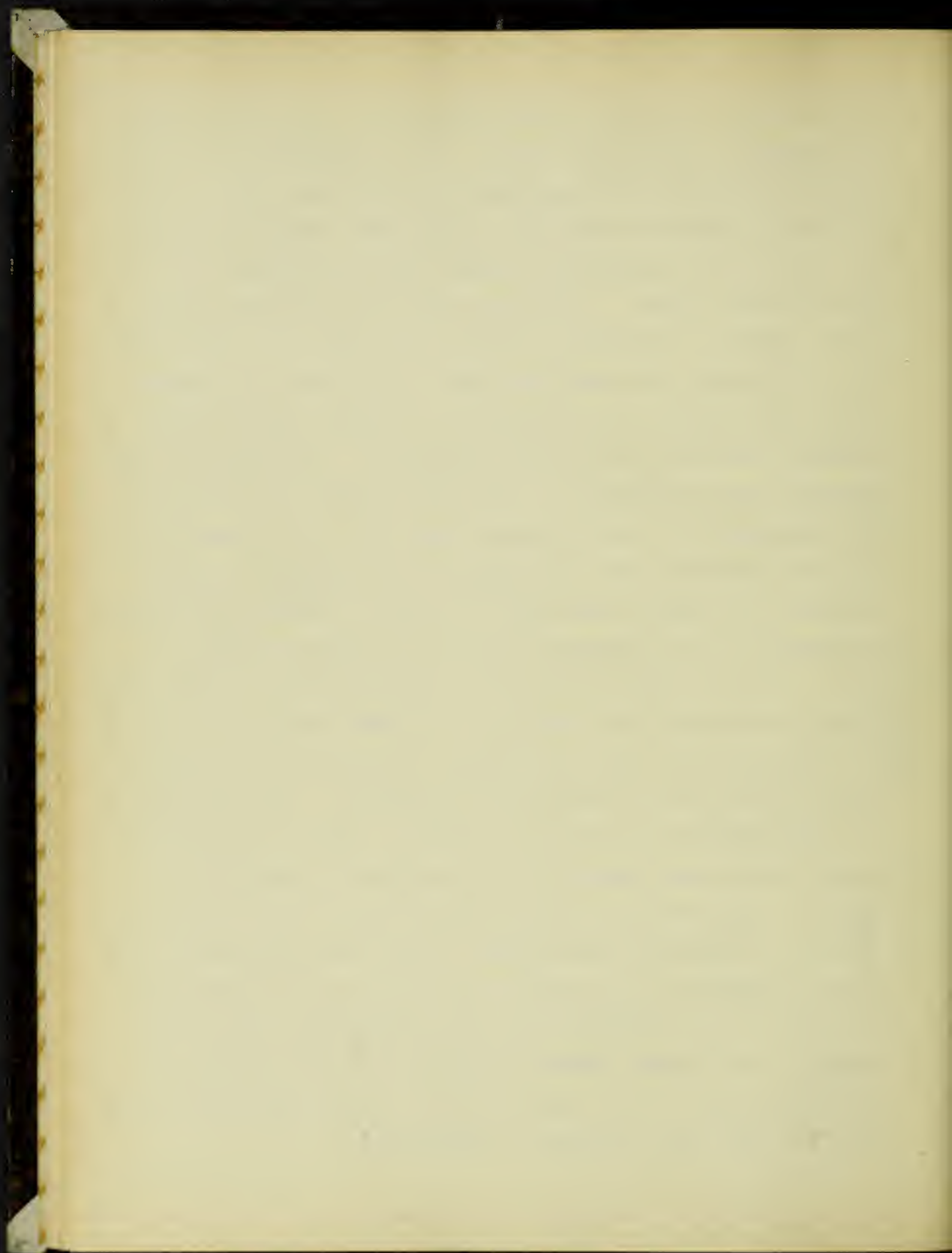
In illustration of the former we find in '62^x "Another source of fellow feeling with the South is to be found in the view that the seceding states are in a position of men with inferior resources and undaunted courage struggling against a powerful enemy. We admire their unity of purpose".

Although on the whole the attitude toward America is sympathetic we find a distinct lack of appreciation of Lincoln and even of the presidential office itself. The democratic form of government did not appeal to the staunch Edinburgh Whigs. In '61^x we find "Mr. Lincoln is not himself an important man, nor can it be said that the office to which he has been elected is calculated to excite alarm by its power." And in Jan. '62, "The respect of the people for the law is rapidly declining, and the law itself is being rapidly undermined by the action of the democratic currents." After the war is over when appreciation of the martyred president was most to be expected, we find^{///} "His course was guided by no farsighted views of policy or statesmanship" and "He brought no genius to the task of government". The reviewer even goes so far as to say- "We are disposed to think that Andrew Johnson with equal honesty and greater dignity is more truly a statesman than Mr. Lincoln." This would seem to suggest active Southern sympathies but in Jan. '69 in a careful consideration of Gen. Grant no such bias is noticeable, neither



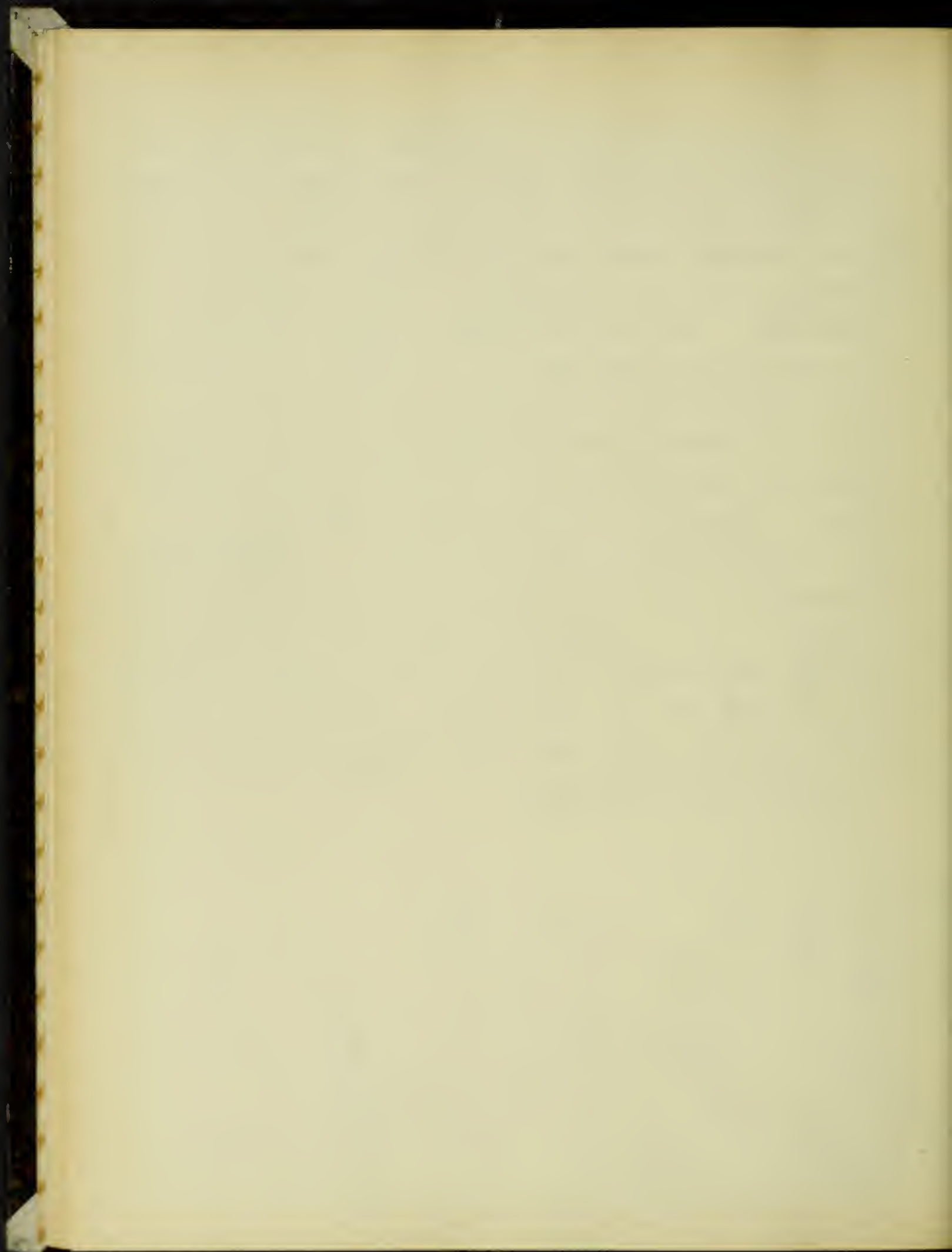
fulsome praise nor undue criticism being given. And in '66^x there is a scathing criticism of Buchanan. "It was reserved for him to close the dynasty of undistinguished and inefficient rulers - to be the last and worst of these feeble men who were chosen to the highest office of the republic, not because they were statesmen, but because they were tools." In so far then as the political attitude of the journal is concerned, we may say that though their sympathies are for the South, and though they fail to appreciate the greatness of our war president, their attitude on the whole is fair, neither violently prejudiced nor actively antagonistic. "We can assure the Americans that the progress of their nation through the difficulties which seem now to be gathering about their path will be watched with generous anxiety and that the triumph of their Republican institutions over the dangers which menace them will be hailed with cordial satisfaction by all classes and parties of the English people."^x

Of the literary names that are mentioned almost all are noticed because of their political writings. Of Parke Godwin, it is said^x "He discusses recent political history of America from the point of view of an elevated and statesmanlike philosophy." Of Charles Sumner^{##} "We recommend this particular volume of addresses as the most careful and eloquent expression of ultra Northern principles and policy." The treatment of Harriet Beecher Stowe's Dred though severe is fair. Of Frederick ~~Law~~ Olmstead, "Those who would know the true effects of slavery on the society of the South, may be referred with confidence to the excellent work of Mr. Olmstead upon the seaboard States." Hon. Josiah Quincy's addresses on the Slave States^{##} is treated fairly. N. P. Willis and J. R. Lowell are merely referred to^{###} as "Both men of eminence in literature."



The only one literary review during the fifteen years is that on Edgar Allan Poe with memoirs by Rufus Griswold and notices of his life and genius by W. P. Willis and J. R. Lowell.^x This article is most decidedly unfair, the caustic treatment reminding one of the Edinburgh's unfairness to Wordsworth. "He was a blackguard of undeniable mark," they say, "The biography of Poe has satisfied us that the lowest abyss of moral imbecility and disrepute was never attained until he came and stood forth a warning to the times to come."

The reviewer further declares that he was not an original writer, and traces his inspiration to Godwin and Charles Brockden Brown. "Sometimes he imitates the matter of fact precision of De Foe, sometimes Balzac, Hoffman and others." "But ^{though} he resembles these writers in his love of the marvellous, he is inferior to them in depth." "Nor do we estimate his powers as a critic very highly." Not until the very last of the article does the reviewer acknowledge that his gifts are "of no common order." Just why this particular author was picked out for such severe criticism, the only one chosen for fifteen years I cannot tell.

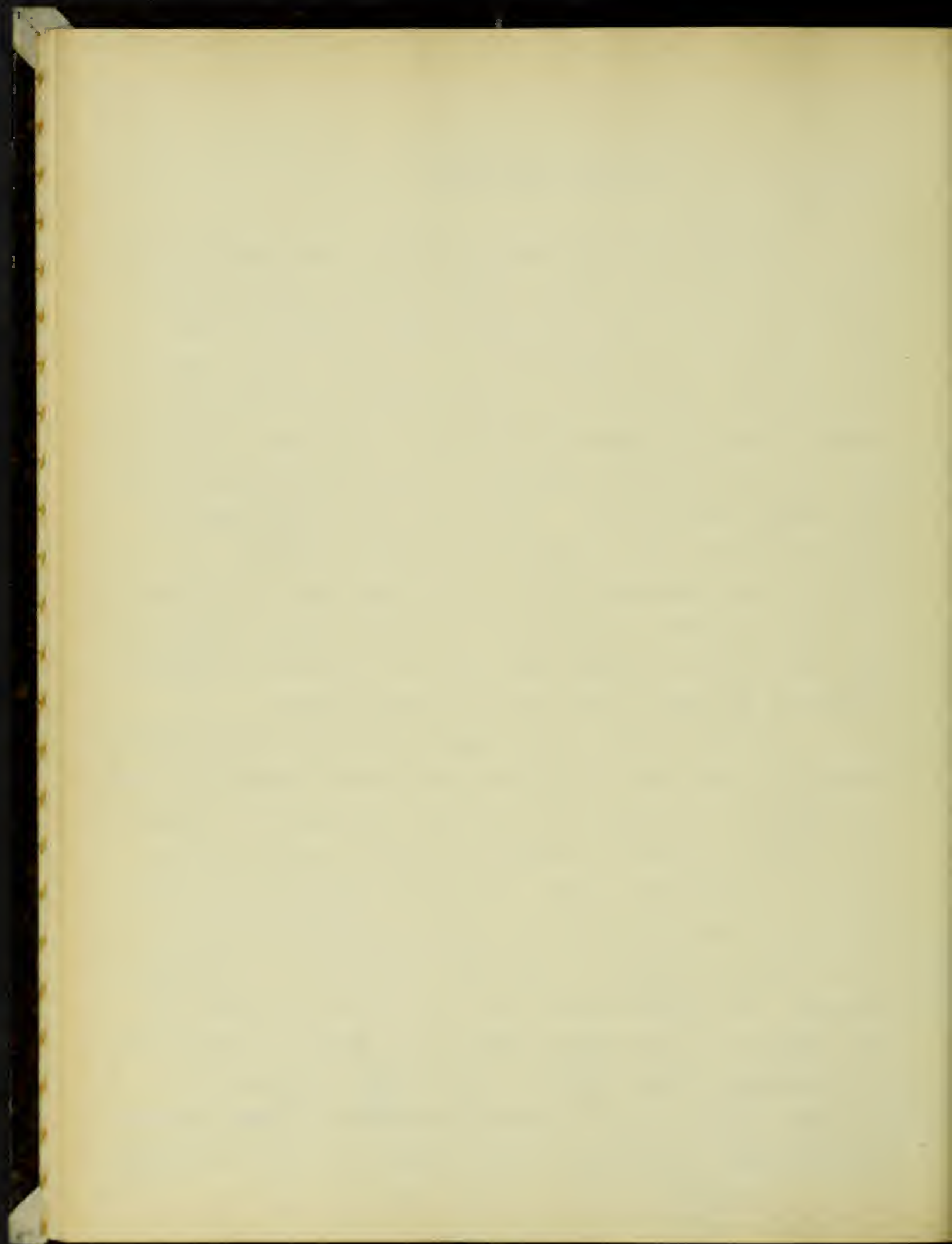


The Quarterly Review.

The attitude of the Quarterly seems to have changed somewhat during the fifteen year period. Before the war, we find sympathy and fair treatment, during it a rather harsh, critical attitude. The utterances of this review are not so uniformly just as those of the Edinburgh. There seems to be more petulance, more proneness to become irritated and say harsh things than in its rival. After the war there are no political articles and the two concerned with literary subjects are very just. During the entire period there are thirteen articles, five of which are on literary subjects. There are three articles from '56 to '60; eight from '61 to '65, and two from '66 to '70. At the head of the eight articles during the war, are the names of thirty books, twenty of which are of American authorship and seven of which are of a literary nature.

In ^x'57, we find a rather lingering, but nevertheless apparent sympathy for the North. For instance we find them saying "The fraud and violence of the South have as yet been unsuccessful". And in '62^x we find the definite statement that English opinion, meaning probably the reviewers' opinion, was with the North until the Trent affair, and then with the South. We find, too, before the war ^{##}an expression of sympathy and good will, while later it distinctly changes. In '60, the reviewer says "It is no less important for the happiness and interests of mankind that a hearty and affectionate feeling should subsist between the United States and England." And even as late as '61, ^{###}"A people so admirable for their independence and their courage, and so closely bound to our own". And again

^x Jan. '57. ^x July-Oct, '67. ^{##} Jan. '60. ^{###} July, Oct '61.



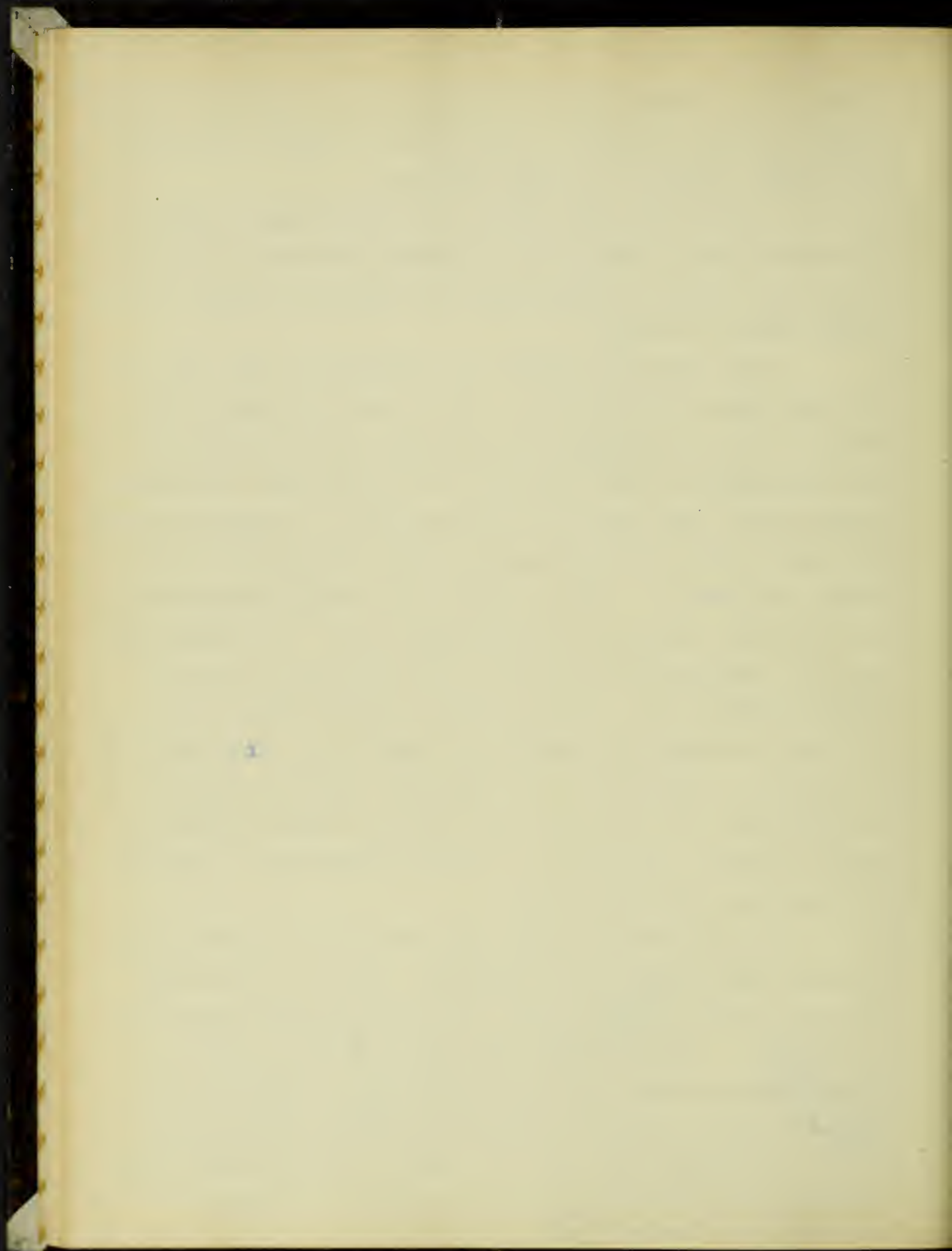
"America has a special claim on our sympathies,- a people who are our kinsmen by blood, who speak the same tongue and inherit the glories of a common literature and common traditions."

A very little later however, the feeling seems to change, a bitterness seems to enter. That the American experiment of republicanism is a failure is boldly stated and a harsh and critical attitude toward Lincoln is assumed.

"That this ideal republic has collapsed is a fact which few are bold enough to contradict." × "It has been done simply on Mr. Lincoln's fiat, at his simple bidding, acting by no authority but his own pleasure, in plain defiance of the constitution. The Habeas Corpus act has been suspended, the press muzzled, and judges prevented by armed men from enforcing the law to which they and the President alike have sworn." // And in '62, we find a distinct recommendation of recognizing the South as an independent nation. In the same year there is a reiteration of the hostile and suspicious attitude of America toward England. This is stated in several others, so the Quarterly is probably not prejudiced in making it. "The solicitude with which the Americans scan our newspapers, watch the speeches of our public men, and scrutinize every vehicle of English Opinion, in order to discover some phrase or sentiment distasteful to themselves is absolutely inexplicable to us."

In the number of literary names mentioned the Quarterly was very much more liberal than the Edinburgh, though in the treatment of those mentioned during the war, the harshness already referred to is detected. The only author taken note of before the war is Harriet Beecher Stowe. Her reputation and fame in England is referred to and the article is rather complimentary than otherwise.

In Jan.-Apr. '61, there is a thorough review of John Lothrop Motley's Rise of the Dutch Republic and History of the United
× July-Oct. '61 × July-Oct '62.

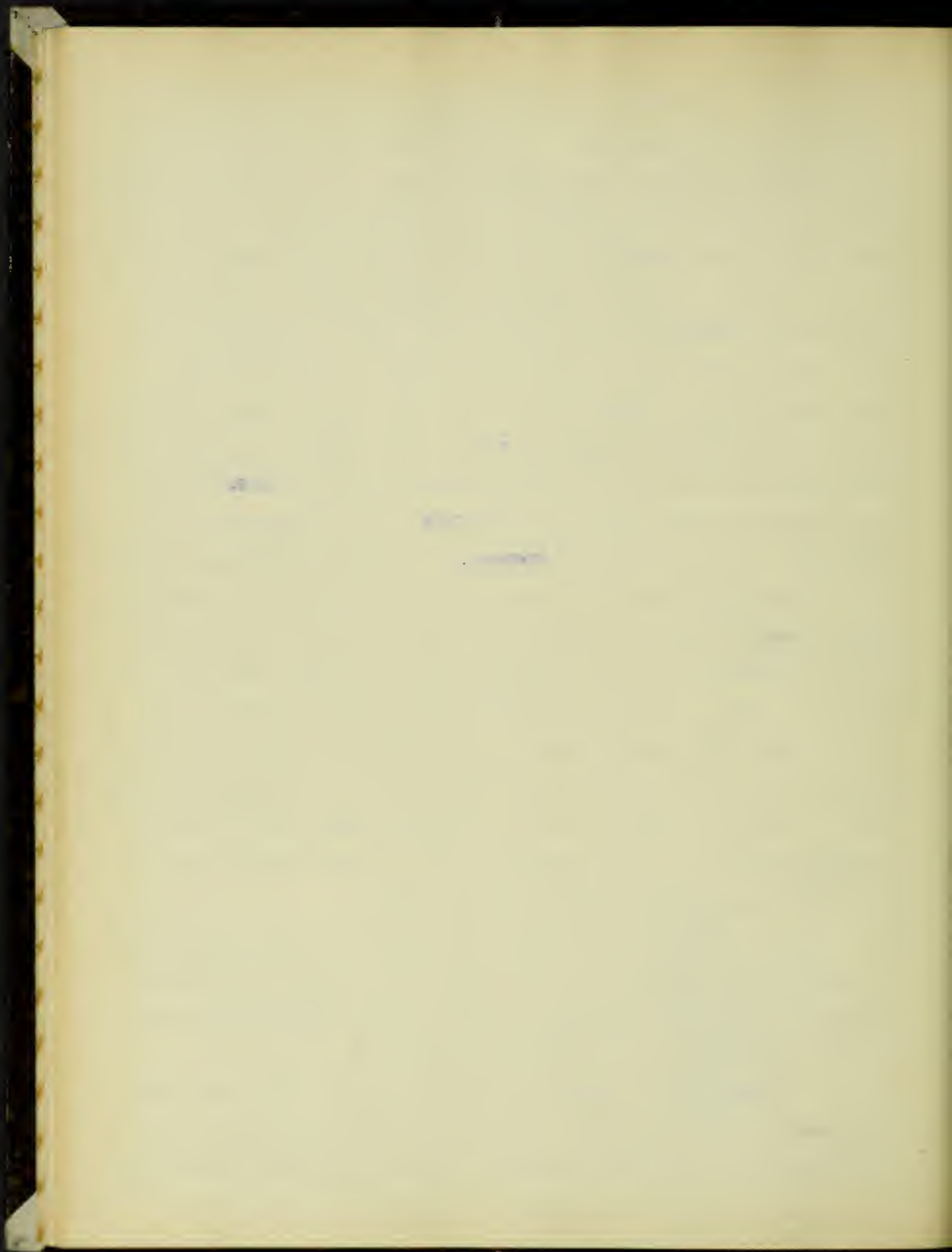


Netherlands. The article is very favorable as are all accounts of him in the other magazines. In an article in '64^x at the head of which stand the names of the following books: R. W. Emerson's English Traits, and The Conduct of Life, O. W. Holmes' Autocrat of the Breakfast Table, and N. Hawthorne's Our Old Home, the same friendly attitude is not present. "Looking across the dreary flats of the American multitude, we see Emerson as a man in their midst of pronounced individuality, with force to resist the tyranny of the multitude." "He bears strong testimony that the population of the large cities of America are godless and materialized". The reviewer continues that Americans are boastful and nervously sensitive to criticism, and that in literature we have only imitated. While this is distinctly anti-American, it is not unjust to Emerson. In judging Hawthorne, however, the reviewer is distinctly unfavorable, the whole estimate seemingly being biased by anger and hurt pride over the one book in question. "But Mr. Hawthorne in his ineffable coarseness cannot even look it." Again "We said - that Mr. Hawthorne was a shallow observer", and further "His bitter wintry face" is referred to.^x "From one end to another the book is steeped with vinegar and gall", and an acknowledgment at the end "Something of this probably comes from the great national calamity". This certainly seems to be prejudiced, for Hawthorne was generally appreciated in England.

In an article on "The Life and Letters of Washington Irving by his nephew P. Irving" in '63^{##} great appreciation is manifest. "Notwithstanding all the vogue of later writers Irving remains one of the most popular of our deceased authors."

James Spence's American Union^{##} is said to be a most able statement of the whole case. "We cannot speak too highly of it." The only case of prejudiced judgment, then, seems to be that of Haw-

^x Jan. Apr. '64, Jan. Apr. '64. ^{##} July-Oct. '63. ^{##} Jan.-Apr. '62.

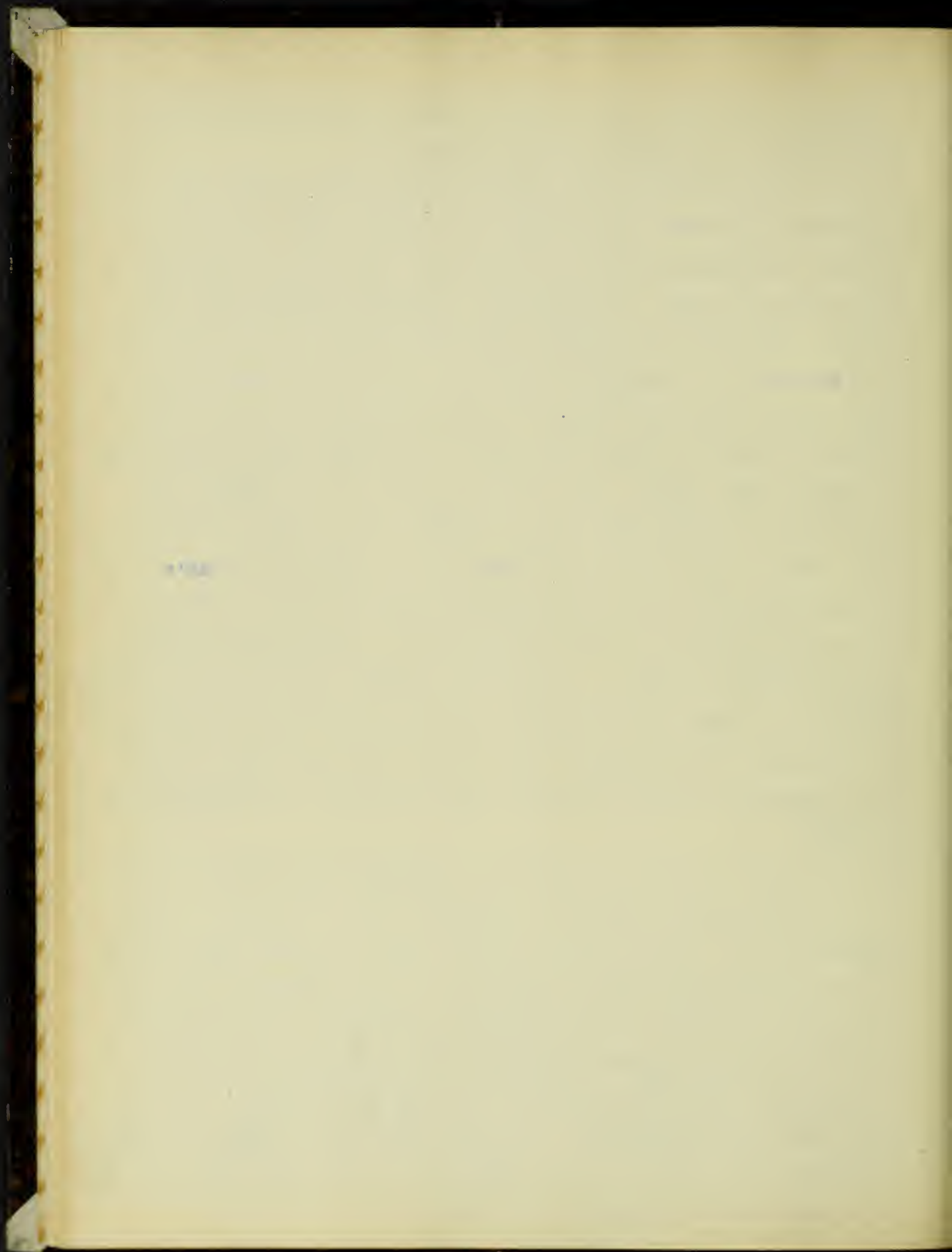


thorne and that was uttered during the most intense period of the war when the anti-American feeling was most keen.

During the five years after the war there are only two articles of interest. One of these is on Yankee Humor[^] and is extremely interesting as well as highly just. The names of eighteen books head this list. Josh Billings: His Book of Sayings, Wit and Humor, Poems by O. W. Holmes; the Potiphar Papers by G. W. Curtis; The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table, by O.W. Holmes; Poems by J.G. Saxe; Artemus Ward, his Book; The Biglow Papers; Letters of Major Downing to his old friend, Mr. Dwight; The Waseby Papers; Phoenixiana; Orpheus C. Kerr Papers; The Conduct of Life by R. W. Emerson; The Professor at the Breakfast Table; American Wit and Humor; Dred by Mrs. Stowe; Mosses from An Old Manse, by M. Hawthorne; Putnam's Monthly Magazine, Vol.53; and Literature and Life by E. F. Whipple. The list is long and the whole article shows a sympathetic treatment of the Yankee character. It is a very complete account of the development of our humor and is especially fulsome in its praise of Lowell. At the close is the statement that American humor has shown a much more admirable American character than the political utterances of the country.

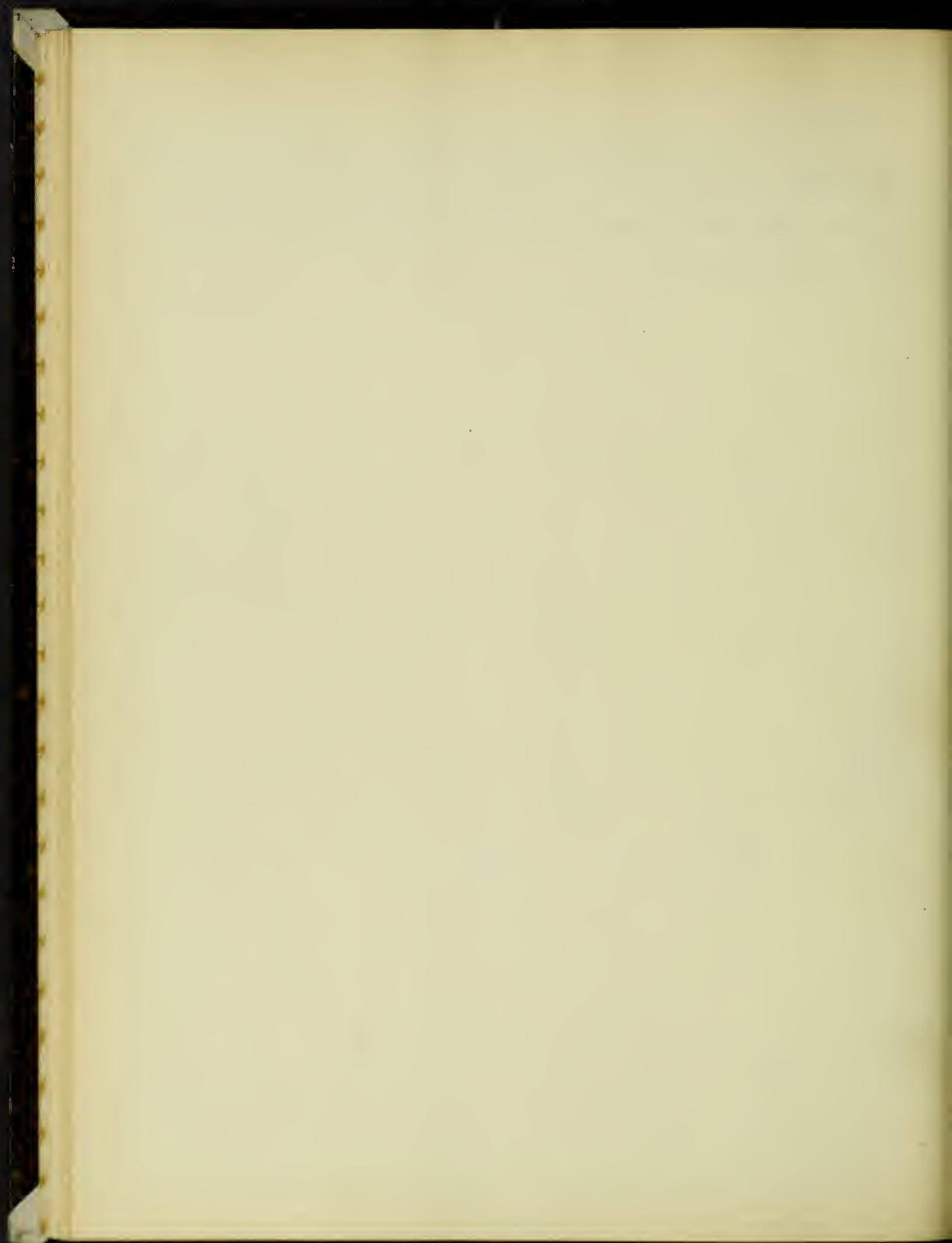
In '69,^{*} there is a scathing criticism of H.B. Stowe on account of her publication in McMillan's Magazine - "The True Story of Lady Byron's Life". It is a bitter article, showing how Mrs. Stowe writes without accuracy and without authority, how she calumnates people without sufficient reason and is absolutely unreliable. "Long before the year closes her true story will be almost universally pronounced a false story and be flung aside with loathing and contempt." Although this is a severe arraignment, and though the tone is unduly harsh and sarcastic, the article is not wholly untrue, there being cause for

^{*} Jan.-Apr. '67. ^{**} July-Oct. '69.



exasperation.

Our conclusion then is that though the Quarterly evinces a decidedly anti American spirit during the war and sides with the South, still only in one case, again, does this seem to influence its literary judgment.



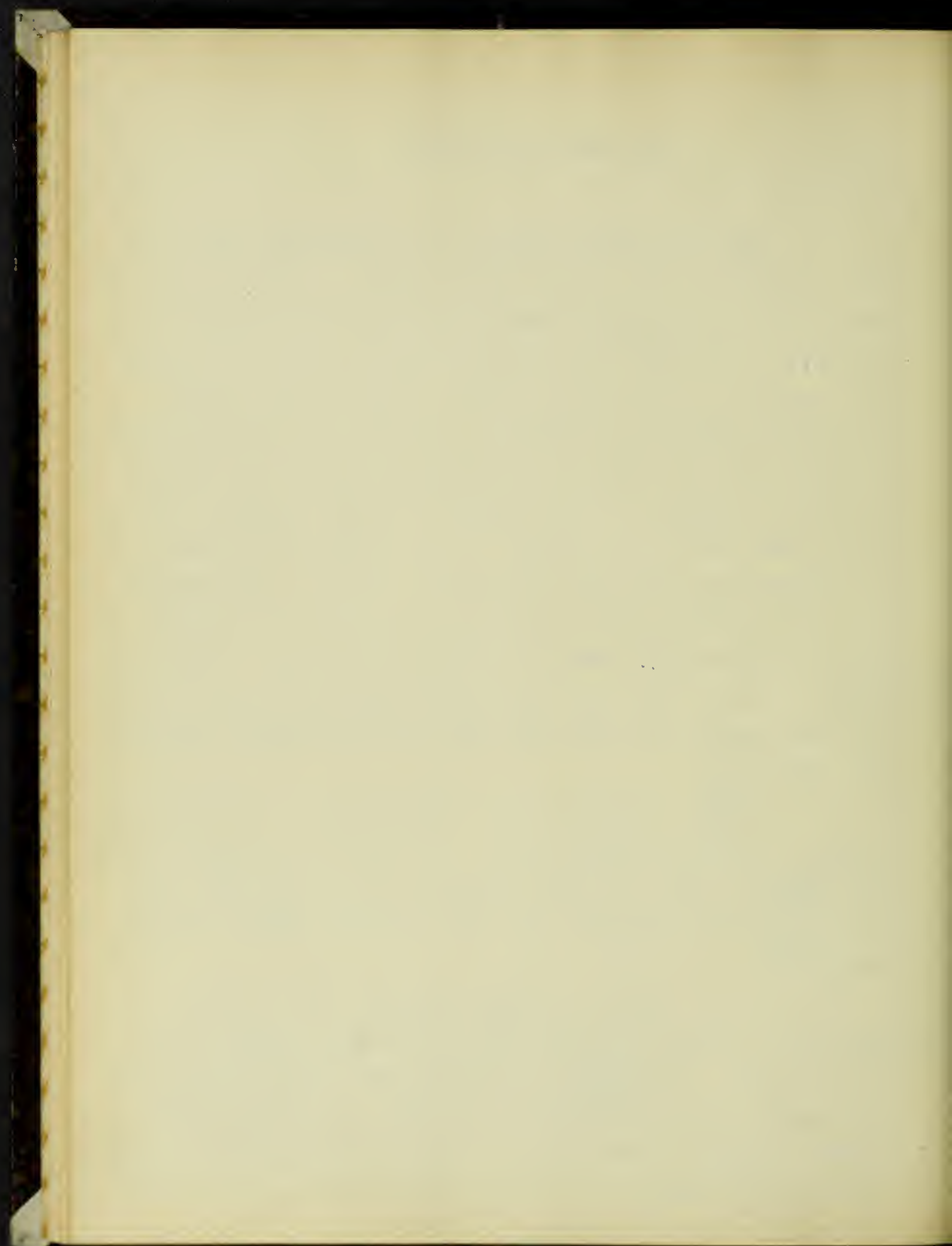
The Westminster Review.

There are only ten articles in the Westminster from '56 to '70, but eight of these are on literary subjects. From the two political articles and from casual statements in the others we should judge, however, that the review had a sympathetic fellow feeling for America. For instance in '56 we find "It serves to remind us that however aristocratic pettiness and republican fanaticism may quarrel upon the surface in truth and reality the Americans are nearer to the English in heart, in sympathy, in their deepest and surest convictions than to any other nation in the world." ^x "It is nearer to our hearts to be understood by America than by any other country." [#] As to whether the review sided with either the North or the South, it is hard to judge, for there are no definite statements either way. I think it is fair to infer, then, that they arrayed themselves on neither side. The usual fairness with which they treat our authors would strengthen this supposition.

In April '56, John Lothrop Motley's Rise of the Dutch Republic is enthusiastically praised. "The book is one which will take its place among the finest histories in this or any other language." "All the essentials of a great writer Mr. Motley eminently possesses."

In Oct. '65 in an article on Emerson's English Traits, although the reviewer is rather sarcastic at times, justice on the whole is done. We find such a sentence as "And then our careful purveyor dishes up his well selected instances." In the conclusions, however, the editor asserts that the book is very welcome and is done by "a skillful artist."

^x Apr. '56. [#] Oct. '56.



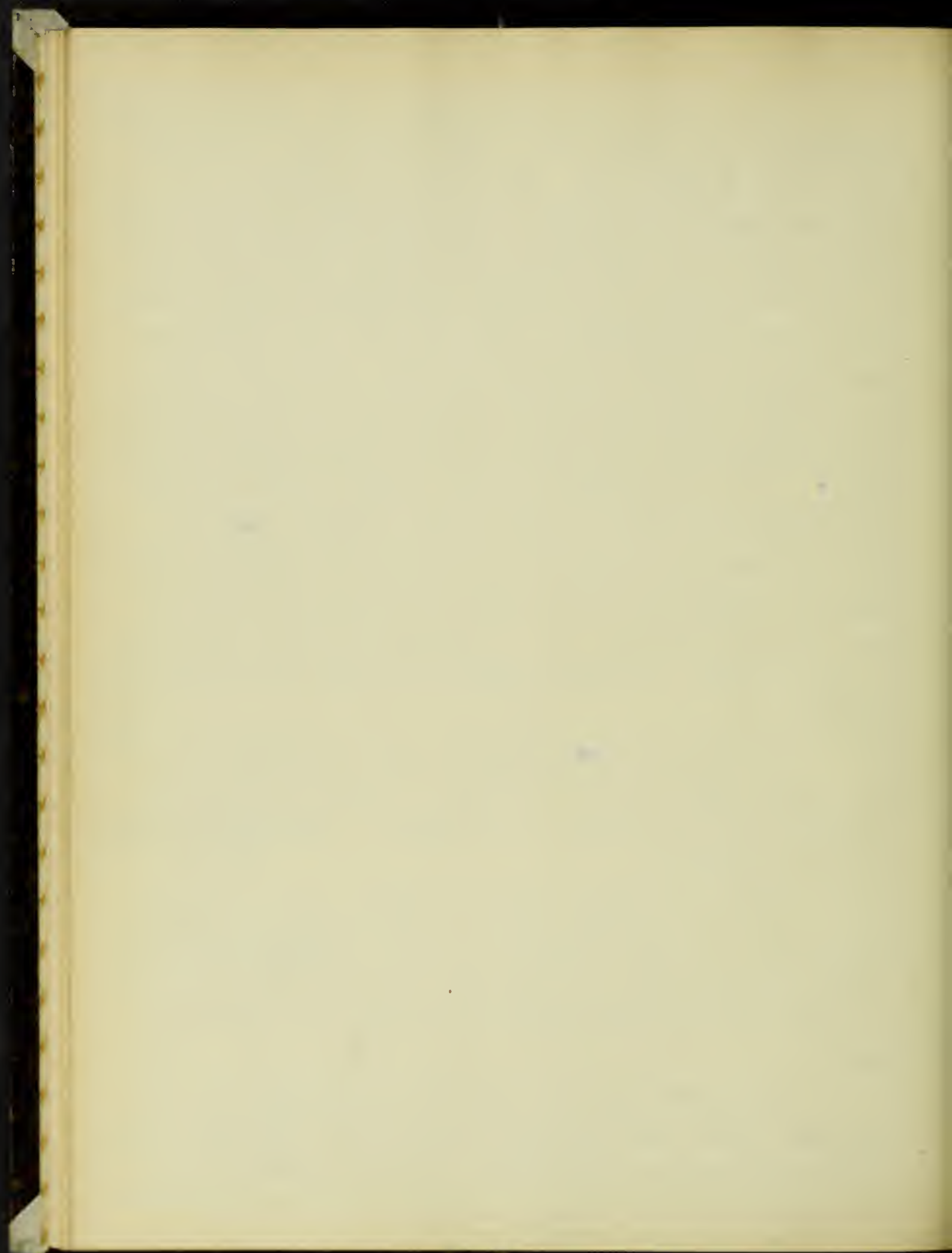
In an article on the Biglow Papers in '61, there is a possible prejudice, for the judgment does not seem to agree with a reference made to the same book in '70. For instance the reviewer in the former case makes this statement. "The Biglow Papers are by no means characterized by over smoothness; on the contrary many of the verses in them are so ragged as to be almost unintelligible, while the humor is often forced and artificial. This series has been commenced for the purpose of upholding the cause of the North against the South, but Mr. Lowell seems unaware that the satire which he directs against the Southerners might be turned with equal propriety against his own party." In '70^x, on the other hand, the reviewer asserts that "The Biglow Papers have gained for their authors in England a meed or praise as hearty and universal as it is merited and esteemed. "This suggests a prejudice as does the absolutely unfavorable reviews of Agnes of Sorrento in July, '65. The reviewer has not a good thing to say of the book. "A drearier and less effective tale we have seldom met with."

The treatment of Bayard Taylor's, Hannah Thurston in Jan. '64 is on the other hand, very laudatory. "It is one of the most remarkable and original novels of the season." "Everything in it is essentially American."

There is an indirect tribute to Hawthorne in the foregoing review. "It is the high prerogative of genius to give the impulse to thought and to determine its current and direction, and this has been one great service that Mr. Hawthorne has done for the American fiction."

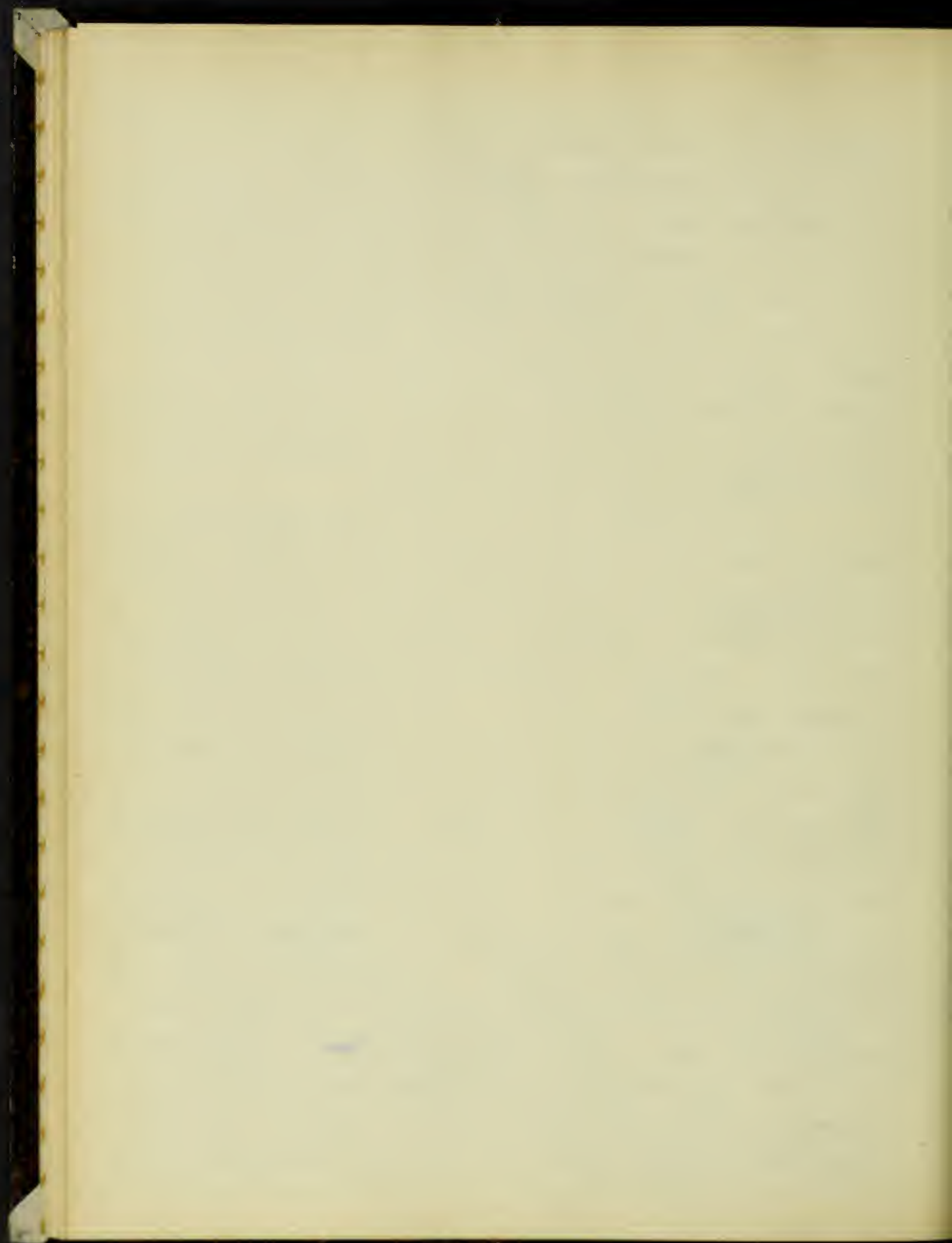
Longfellow's Tales of a Wayside Inn are reviewed, the attitude being neither very friendly nor very hostile. "This volume will hardly satisfy those who remember what Longfellow has done, though there is the true ballad clang and thunder to the Saga of King Olaf."

X July '70, Article on Amer. Lit.



If there has been any doubt in our minds as to what this review thinks of American literature, it is dissipated when in Oct. of '70 in an exhaustive article on American Literature, its sentiments are definitely stated. An estimate of all our most important authors is given and a statement of the causes of conditions as they are. The reviewer does not agree with Barrett Wendell as to the causes of our scarcity of good literature. National inexperience is not the reason, he says, and cites Chaucer to prove his point. "In the jostle and pressure of business, in the race for political distinction, little time is left for the calm pursuits of literature." "Everything in America works in a practical groove."

It is this rather than mere age that retarded and still retards according to their view the growth of our literature. "American literature is characteristically imitative," they say, and "As mere readers the Americans are unequalled by any other people in the world." "Literature of knowledge the Americans are eager for, it is necessary in their business." "There is", however, "not a score of names in American literature that may be placed in the front rank among poets, historians and novelists; and there is not one to vie with the leading names in the Old World." This seems rather harsh, but if we should count perhaps a score would cover the number of names worthy of such elevation. The review continues with an exhaustive account of the number and nature of the publications in America from the years '61 to '68 inclusive. It emphasizes the unusual activity of the period and the enormous increase in the number of books published each year. A large number of these were of course reprints, and a still larger number ephemeral creations dealing with the war, everything of this nature being devoured with avidity. The very few of these books which were of real merit was indicated at the be-



ginning of this paper.

Of the personal estimates Longfellow is given perhaps the highest praise "Longfellow must be pronounced the chief of American poets." "Poe the erratic and ill fated Virginian is next to Longfellow the most popular in this country." This is very different from the Edinburgh estimate.

Of W. P. Willis and Dana it is said in the single paragraph devoted to them "In their local poems they are both essentially American; in Dana there is strong religious fervor, in Willis, worldly wisdom."

William Cullen Bryant is the most American of all poets. This is intended as an eulogy. Lowell and Holmes are just mentioned; the latter being said to be the most cultivated wit if not the chief humorist America has produced.

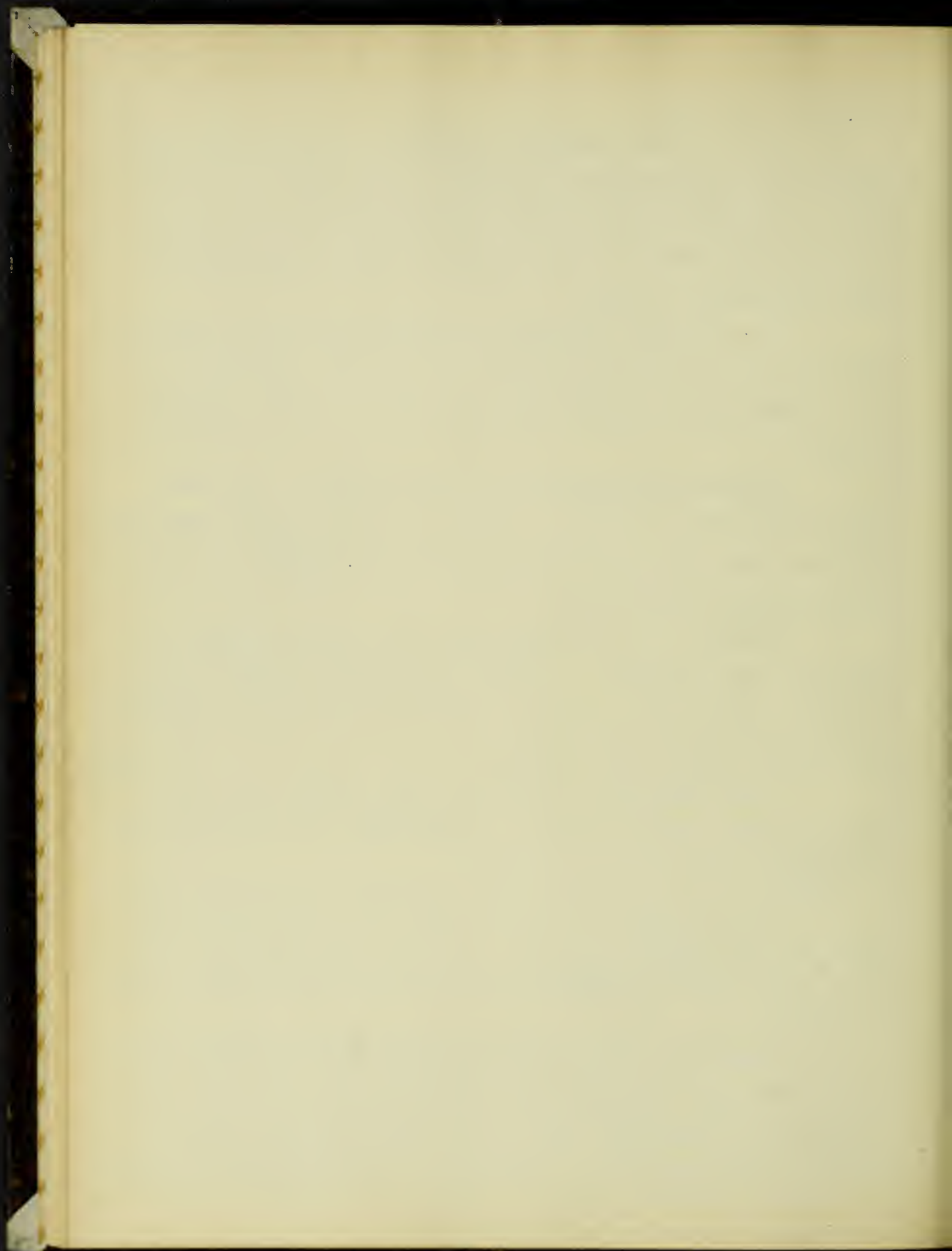
Whittier is the American lyricist for eminence. "He has no rival, but many followers." And Whittier we must remember was distinctly an abolitionist, so if this review had any southern tendencies they did not influence its judgment.

Three paragraphs are devoted to Walt Whitman, this being the only notice of him we found in any magazine. It is said that his "Originality rushes off at a tangent."

In prose literature Emerson and Franklin are praised, each being the antithesis of the other. Irving, Poe, Charles Brocken Brown, Cooper and Hawthorne are also mentioned, fairness being allowed to each.

There is a tribute also to the North American Review and the Atlantic Monthly. "The periodical essays in the N. Amer. Rev. and the At. Mo. are in every sense equal to the best in our own reviews."

"They are seldom deficient in knowledge, in wide appreciative sympathy

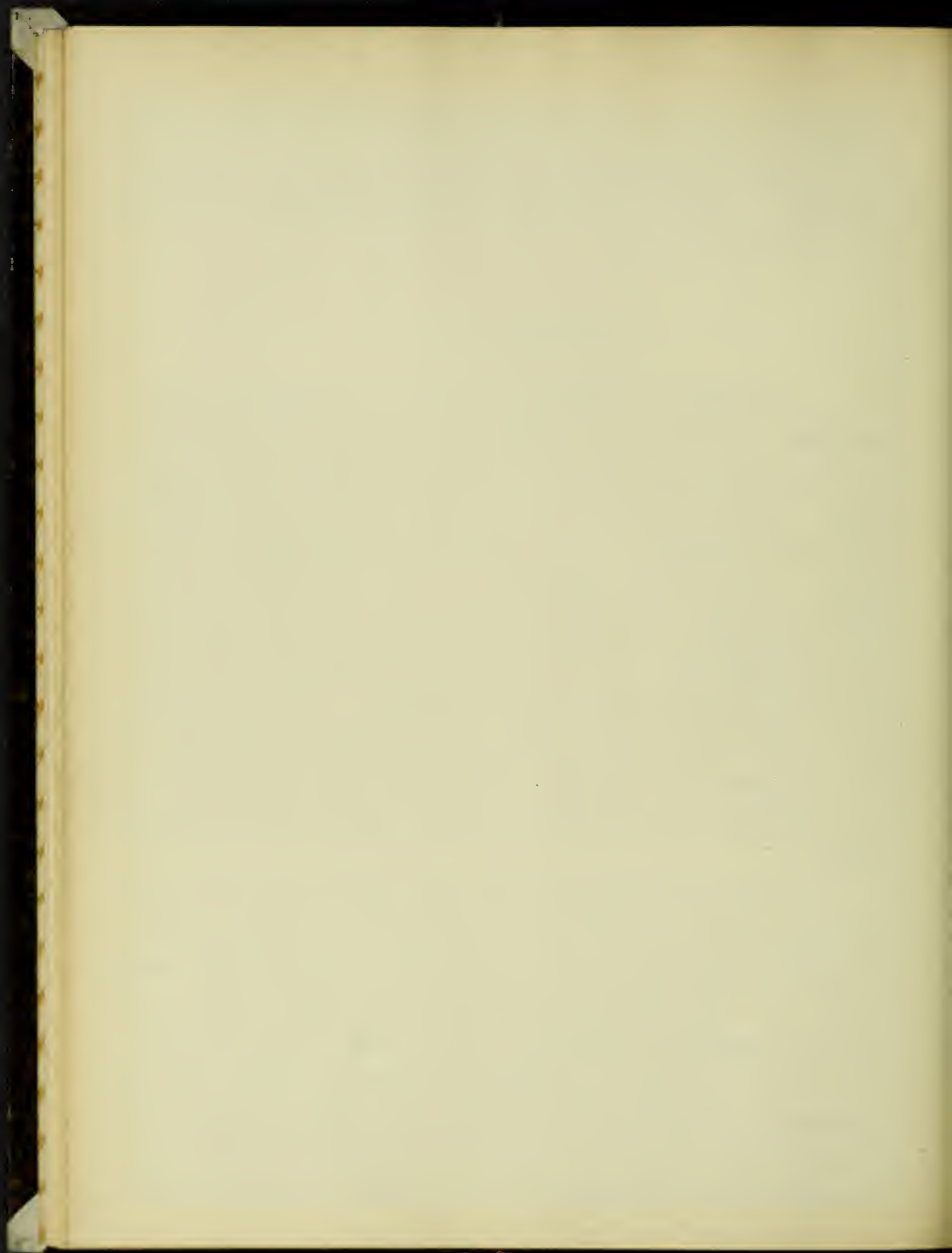


and critical acumen. And this excellence is found in both critical and creative essays." This is surely a generous and broad minded attitude for an old established journal to make of a new one across the water. And this seems to be the general sentiment of the review in regard to our authors.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.

In coming to Blackwood's we leave the quarterlies for the monthlies. The nature of Blackwood's is, however, very much more like that of the quarterlies than had been the earlier monthly magazines. It was the intention of the founder to rival the Edinburgh Review and to accomplish this the nature of the review had to be very similar to that of its predecessor. And so we find in its pages the same audacity, the same fearlessness, and the same acumen that we do in the Edinburgh. It is more frequent of publication but its articles are none the less carefully prepared. Since it was Tory in principle and was with the Quarterly in political discussions, it sided of course with the South. It is even more pronounced in its prejudices than its colleague and at times becomes almost ridiculously harsh.

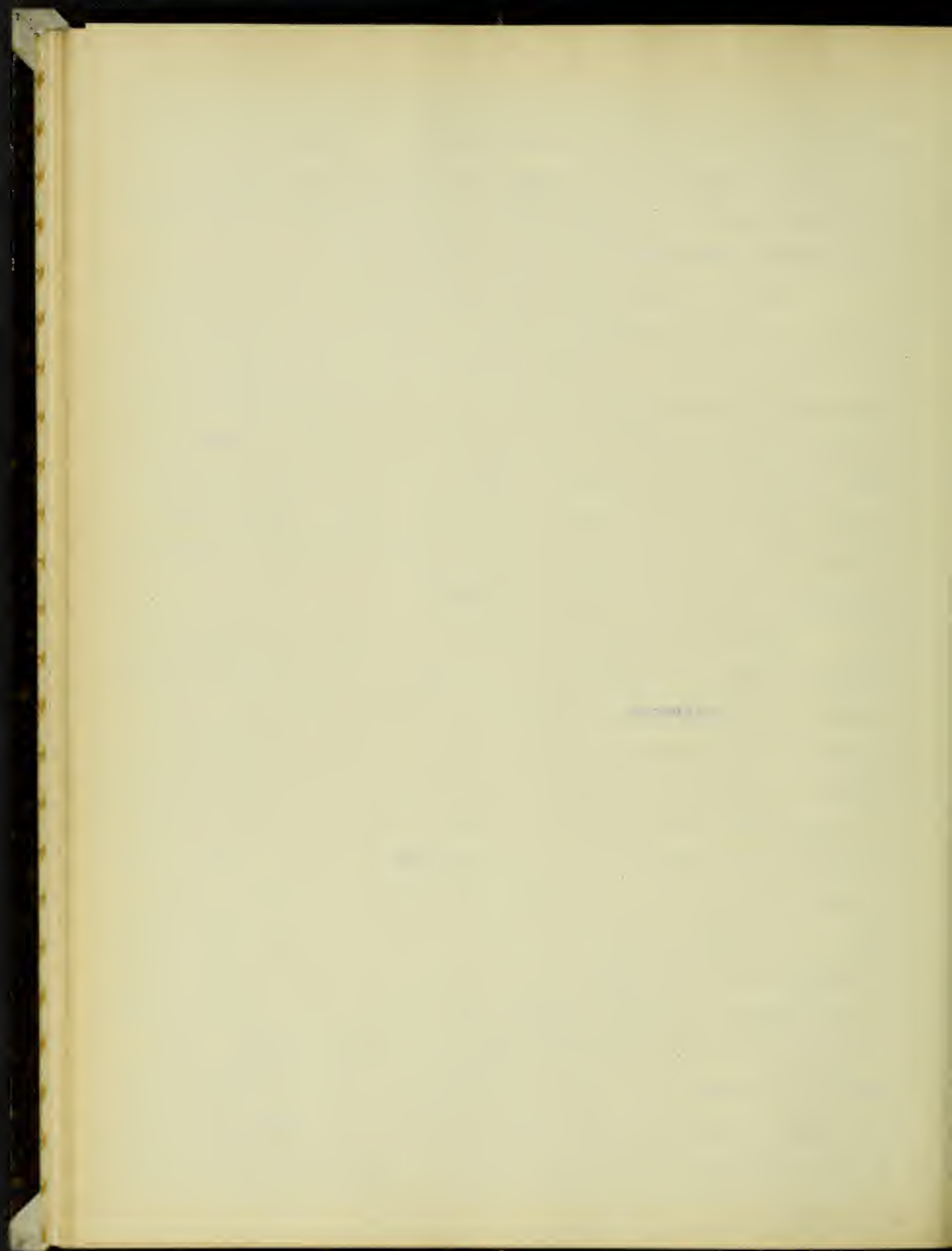
Before the war we find but three articles, one on the dispute with America in '56 over the Central American trouble, another on American Explorations in '57, and a third on Motley's Dutch Republic in Dec. '59. Mr. Motley receives the same laudatory treatment that the other magazines accorded him. "He is a fair, honest, downright advocate," "He writes like a lover of liberty; but without any undue partiality to democratic institutions." "Our author's style is bold, vigorous, full of power, but sometimes intemperate." The last two statements are as conservative as any concerning Mr. Motley. Like-



wise in the indirect tribute to Mr. Prescott, a somewhat less complimentary tone is taken than we find elsewhere. "Though entitled to the praise of extensive and original research, he has always had a lingering attachment and strong bias towards the romance of history." "His charming narratives have much of exaggeration."

During the war period there were fifteen articles on political subjects including biographies of more or less political people, and two literary articles. The only author of note mentioned during the entire period is Hawthorne, so that we have little opportunity to see whether the ardent Southern sympathies of the reviewers prejudiced their judgments of our authors. And later in the period after the war when their attitude distinctly changes, and they assume a very friendly tone, then too there is but one author mentioned, Motley; so that again our query must remain unanswered.

That the attitude was distinctly southern, and that in condemning the North, the reviewer did not hesitate to include President Lincoln in his **anathemas**, the following quotations will show. In speaking of the Emancipation Proclamation, he says. X "Monstrous, reckless, devilish as the project is we believe it will not succeed." "It proves what every one in this country was loth to believe, that the North would league itself with Beelzebub, and seek to make a hell of half a continent." "To employ such means is inhumanous." And again "It is extraordinary the amount of ferocity which exists among the population of the United States, especially among the Puritans of the New England states." "Extreme views based on the considerations of self interest unquestionably preponderate in the North." And "Had the Americans been aware of the extent and depth of the contempt with which we have recognized their doings." And again the whole struggle is called a "cutthroat quarrel". There is no doubt of the



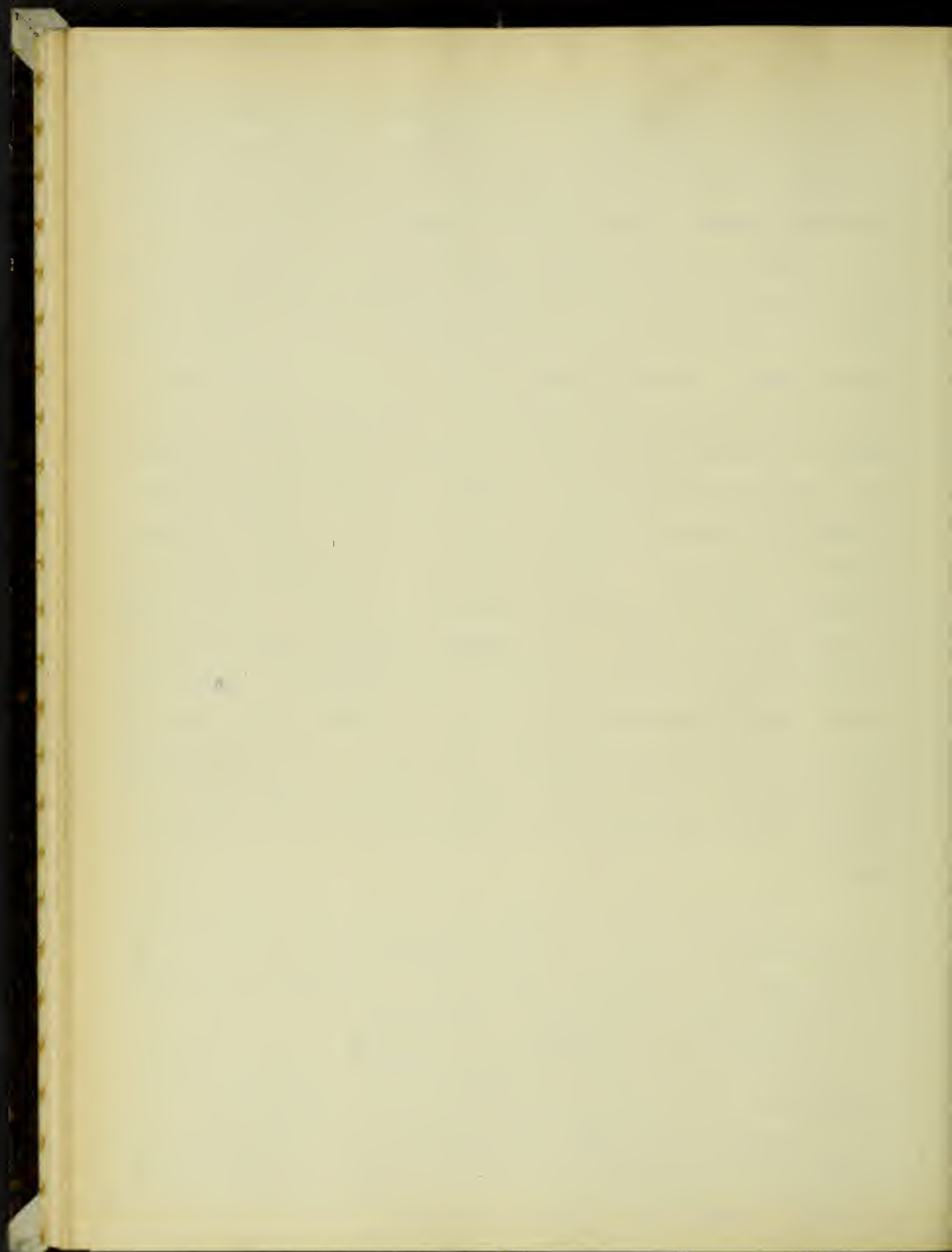
sentiment here, nor is there in the following^X, "The republic of the U.S. was once a great nation, now it is merely the military despotism of a portion of the states striving under the dictatorship of an insignificant lawyer, to crush out the freedom of the rest" . "To the eye of Europe in general Lincoln presents a rather melancholy spectacle with nothing but the honesty of purpose to distinguish him from the swarm of politicians that have been engendered by the corruption of the defunct union." Compare these statements with those made in Nov. '66, in an article on Three Presidents of the United States. In speaking of Lincoln "He was blunt of speech and ungainly in appearance; but by sheer pertinacity of purpose and simple-minded honesty, he carried to victory the greatest cause in which an American statesman was ever engaged." "Even when the fierce passions grew fiercer; he was calm, equable, patient and merciful as before." "He was steady and faithful to the end." The estimate is exactly reversed. Even the Northern prejudice grows somewhat less unreasonable. In '69 the reviewer says: "The feelings with which all classes of our people regard America are not only favorable but kindly." And they even have the presumption to say; "We think moreover that the North owes its triumph as much to England's generous neutrality as to its own proviso."

To show further this anti-American sentiment during the war, it is interesting to note the various phases of our life that the reviewer attacks, our diplomacy, our politics, our oratory, the manners of our women, and the presidential office itself.

"Amidst the strange displays of weakness made by the North not the least strange will be the futility of its diplomacy." #

"Stump orators launch such sentences as are on this side of the water never addressed to any but the galleries at a Surrey Melo-

X Jan. '63. # May '63.



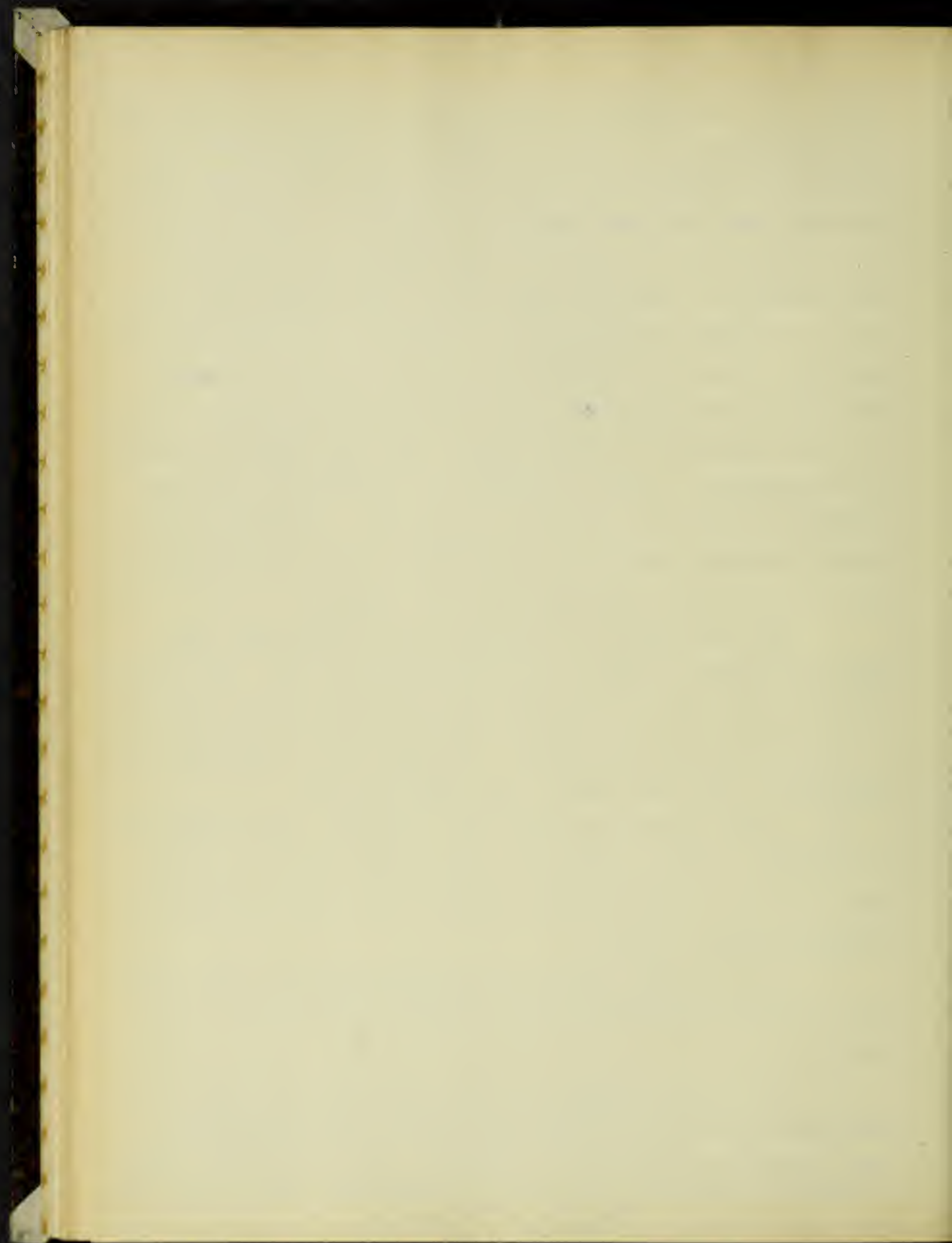
drama." And "These gentlemen all write in a stilted style stuck over with bad metaphors." And of the women the reviewer asserts "The Southern women reject all the pert 'isms' and crazy theories that find such favor among the yeasty masses of the North." Then he refers to "the forwardness of the women," and their "extreme self assertion." "That something is radically wrong, either in the climate, the mode of life or the social peculiarities of the women of America has long been asserted." Then of the presidential office in June '68, "They elect every fourth year a bogus, obscure and unrespected president." "Few men of high character and ability have of late years sought or obtained the presidency." And in addition to all these things, the American people are accused of habitual intoxication. "Americans of all classes are too much addicted to the pernicious habit of drinking spirits." "A vice only too common among all classes."

That this spirit did change we have already shown. The change is apparent in almost every article after the war. The general education of the Americans is particularly eulogised in one article, X and their statesmanship in another. # Sympathy for the South still existed but in a very much milder, more reasonable form.

Of the personal estimates, Pres. Jefferson Davis in Sept. '62 is eulogised as might be expected. Pres. Andrew Jackson in a very frank and careful article receives justice on the whole, although the article is far from admiring. ##

In '66, Andrew Johnson is eulogised and in '68 ## this judgment is somewhat changed though the treatment on the whole is sympathetic.

Of the three literary articles, the first one on Bartlett's Americanisms in July '61 is carefully done and free from political bias. The article of Hawthorne on England in Nov. '63, is rather hard on American literature, but eulogistic of Hawthorne. "Fortunately for
x Jan. '66 * June '66 ## Jan. '62 ### June '66.

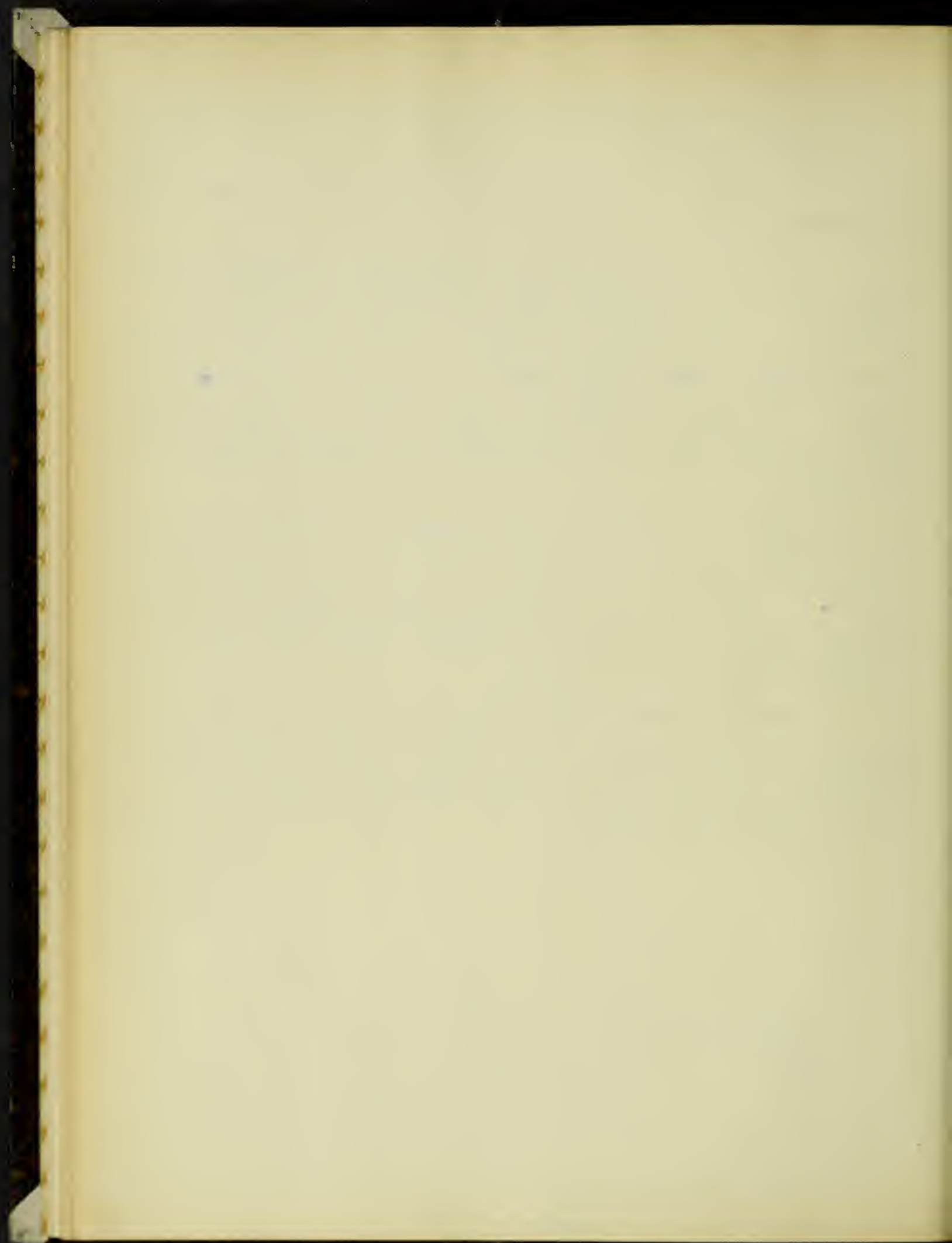


us," the reviewer says, "Only the best of American literature ever secures a footing among us. There is a vast quantity of what passes for very fine writing in the states, which it would be worth nobody's while to republish here."

But on the other hand; "It is many years now since the name of Mr. Hawthorne was inscribed among those English worthies of the time whom Britannia delighted to honor." "They loved him, supposed he loved them, so were utterly surprised at the hostility shown in his book." They excuse the latter by saying it must have been because of the national feeling and not because of any personal dislike for the English.

And in the review of Motley's History of the Netherlands, in July '68, the same praise is found. "In the list of accepted historians," "His well deserved popularity stands conspicuous and may defy the cavils of the critic," and similar remarks which show the universal estimate of this historian.

Partisan feeling, then, distinct and violent actuated the Blackwood reviewers during the war. Because, however, there are so few literary names mentioned we cannot judge as to whether this colored their literary judgments.

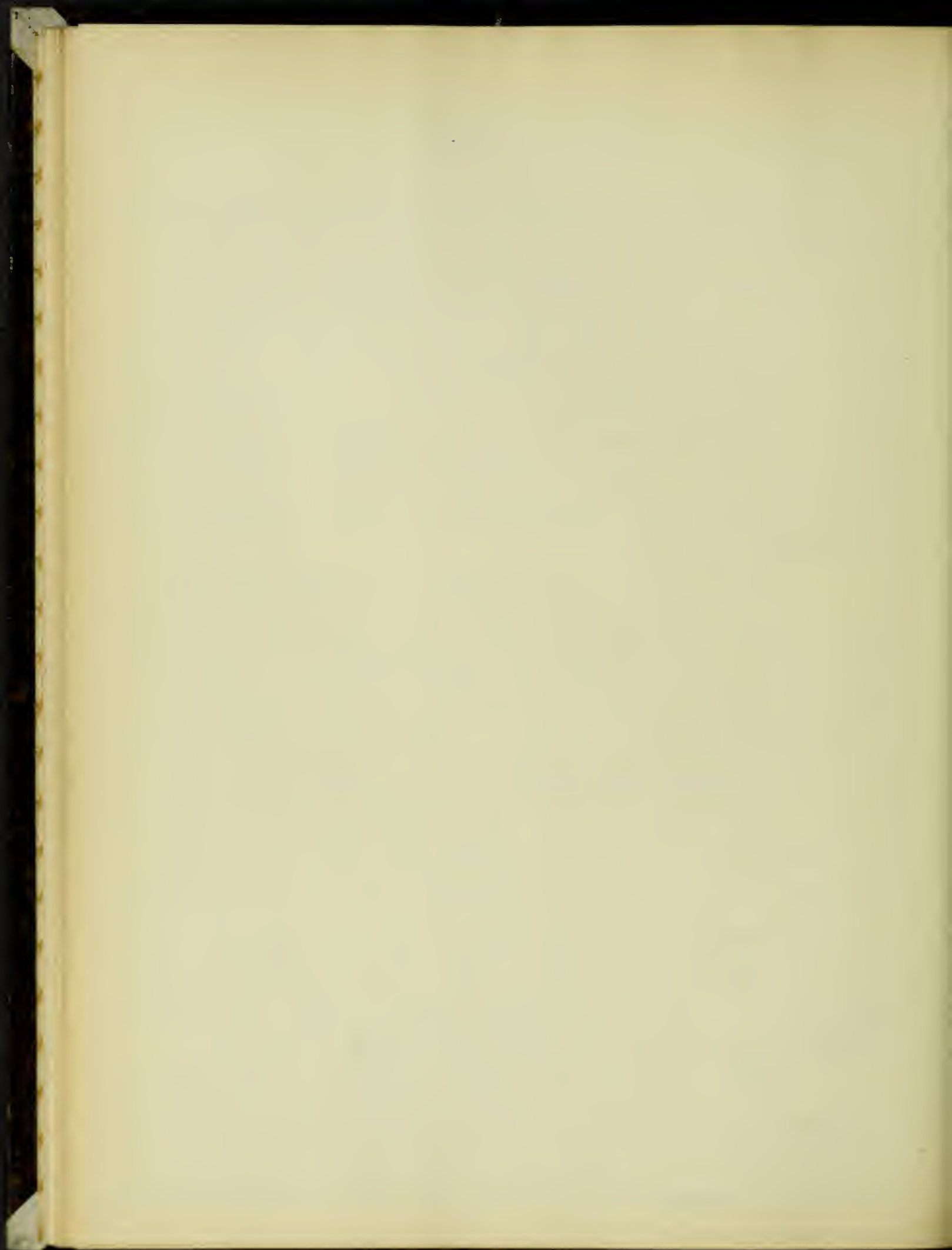


FRASER'S MAGAZINE.

Of the forty three reviews found in Fraser's from '56 to '70, thirty four are on political subjects and nine on literary ones. Of the thirty four, five are before the war, seventeen during it, and twelve in the five years after it. The nine literary articles are equally divided, there being three during each period. In this magazine we find the first advocates of the North. The reviewers do not hesitate to blame the South for the war and berate the English upholders of the Confederacy. Here is a different political attitude than the other journals have sustained, whether it causes different literary estimates will be seen.

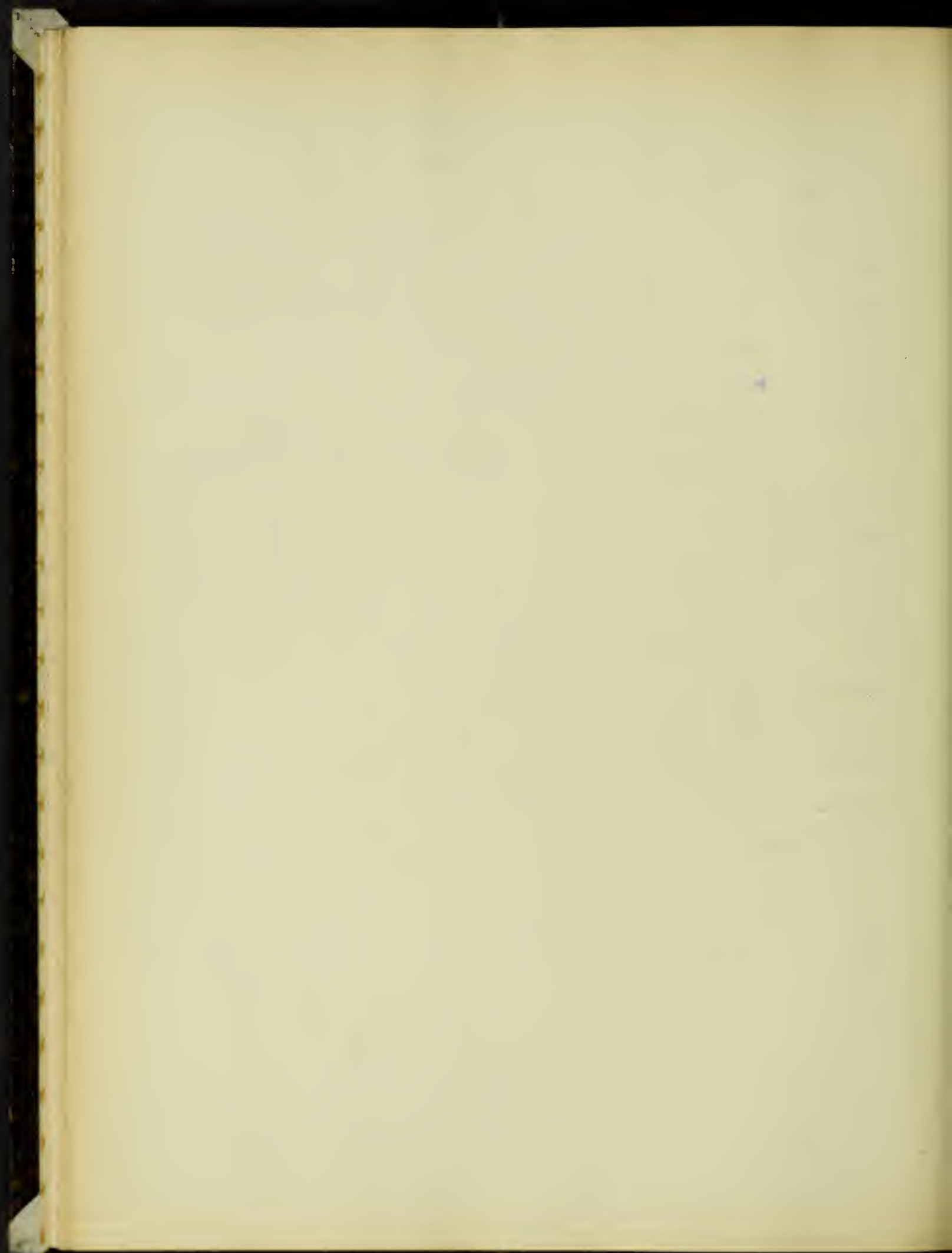
That the sentiment was in favor of the North quotations from articles of different years will show. In Apr. '61, "In the last half century, the slave states have learned insolence so unbearable, they have uniformly ridden on the shoulders of their faithful ally, the democratic party of the North." "It is highly characteristic of the ruffian stupidity which domineers in the champions of slavery." In Oct. '63, "In a word the South gave as great provocation to the North and behaved as ill to them as one people could behave to another." "The South, and they alone are to blame for this war." In '63, however the editor takes pains to state that his stand will be neutral. "We will be perfectly neutral, civil to each party and sympathize fully with neither." That he does sympathize is, however, very apparent. And this prejudice continues, being still apparent in May '69.

There is discoverable a slight suggestion of that Anti-Americanism that is so evident in the other journals. "As a nation coarse and overbearing in all disputes where they themselves are concerned." And in Aug. '62, "We allude to the deep seated, all pervading dishonesty



which every American knows and no American abhors." This is pretty severe and so too is the following, in Apr. '63. "The vulgar among all people are the majority. Unfortunately in America, the vulgar, and majorities rule." And again the supersensitiveness of Americans, their struggle for wealth, the precocity of their youth, the lack of refinement of the commercial classes and the deplorable boarding house system are mentioned. In Oct. '63, however, the closeness of the nations is emphasized and the significance to each of the others sympathy. This in general seems to be the general attitude.

The literary estimates are several. In Jan. '56, there is an article on Prescott's Philip the Second. It is a careful digest of the work and fair. And in March '59 is an In Memoriam at the time of his death. "The tidings of the death of the great American historian have been received in G. Britain with hardly less sorrow than in the U.S." The tribute could not be more beautiful if it were for one of England's own writers. In Jan. '57, the reviewer gives a careful analysis of Poe, using as a basis his works, with memoirs by Rufus Griswold and notices of his Life and Genius by W. P. Willis and J. A. Lowell, His Poetical works, with notices of his Life and Genius by James Hannay, and Tales of Mystery, Imagination and Humor; and Poems. It is a little more sympathetic than the article in the Edinburgh, but still it is very harsh. It quotes the same instances to prove Poe's utter lack of manliness, especially the one of the South Carolinian woman who lent him 50¢, and upon asking for it, only received a threat of infamy. "He was bad and wretched throughout." "He was a plagiarist of the deepest dye and very vain over his own works." The statement is also made that he is "little appreciated" "this side the Atlantic." "He had no sympathy, no honor, no truth." "A powerful intellect, a most vivid imagination; an utterly evil heart,

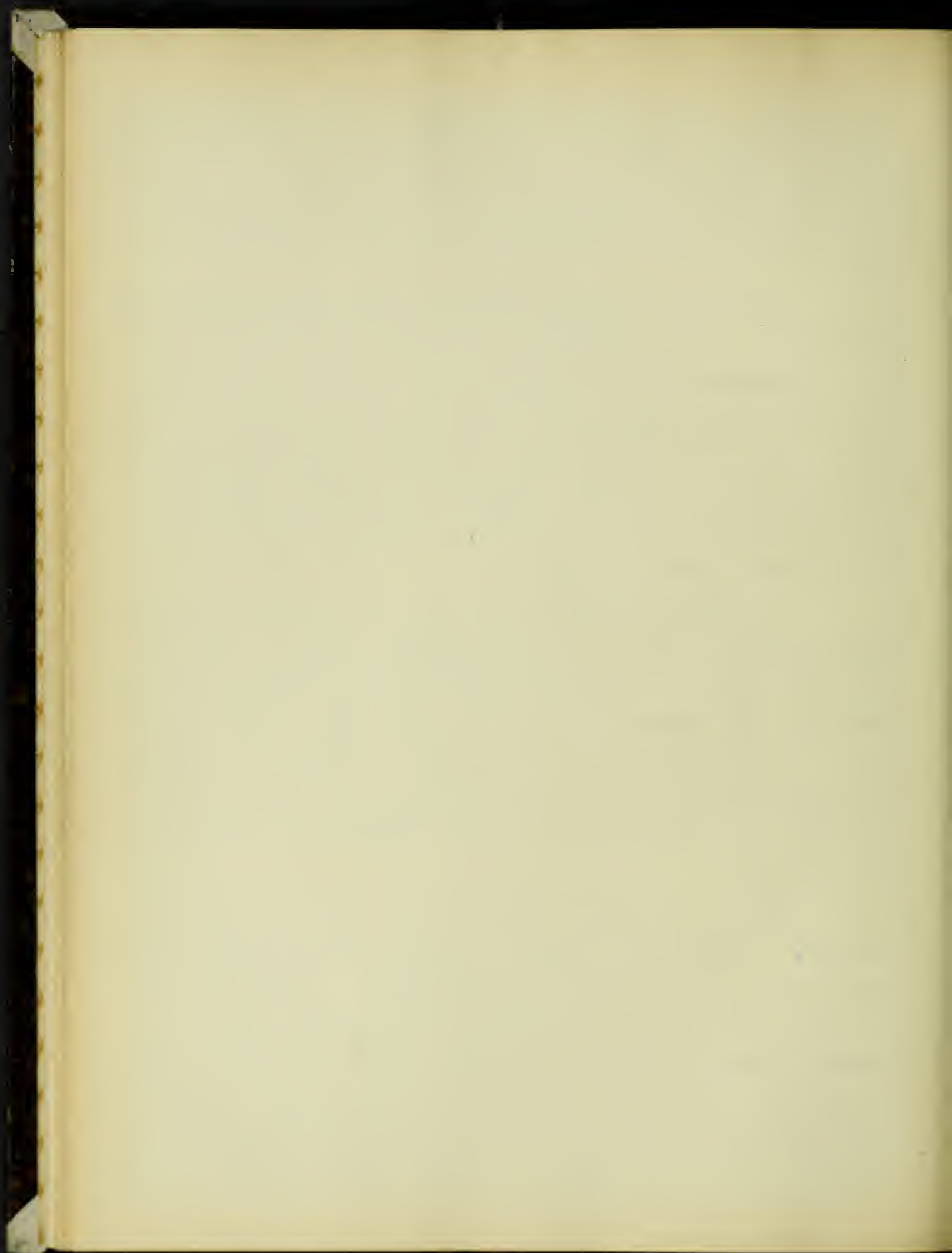


and a career of guilt, misery and despair." It is at least a coincidence that both of these very unfavorable reviews are by journals either Northern or not very violently Southern in their attitude. Whether the fact that Poe was a Virginian influenced the reviewers, I cannot tell.

In Apr. '65, there is a somewhat fulsome praise of Mrs. Lydia Maria Childs. "It is pleasant to find truth and purity and beauty in our researches through a literature which has the symptoms of all diseases, from the spasms of St. Vitus dance to the fervid terrors of a brain fever and delirium tremens. We find one illustrious female writer who seems to have been faithful to her artistic conscience." Her fame is said to rest on two books, Letters from New York and The Progress of Religious Ideas.

The Transcendentalists of Concord are reviewed in Aug. '68, Margaret Fuller is given a full and eulogistic account. Nathaniel Hawthorne is said to be "the only literary man in America who has not given his voice against slavery. At the same time it should be said that in his personal relations, this ablest of American story tellers was without reproach, and that they mourn his early death who knew him best." A. Bronson Olcott, is rather sarcastically treated but not unjustly so.

There is a review of Thoreau in Apr. '66, with five works as basis, A week on the Concord and Merrimac River, Walden, Excursions, Cape Cod, and Letters to Various Persons. "I have met with but few in England," says the reviewer, "who have seen any one of Thoreau's books, and have seen no public notice of them except through the Saturday Review, which contained one or two articles concerning some of them last year. The reasons for this absence of any general recognition of so rare a mind lay doubtless rather in the peculiari-



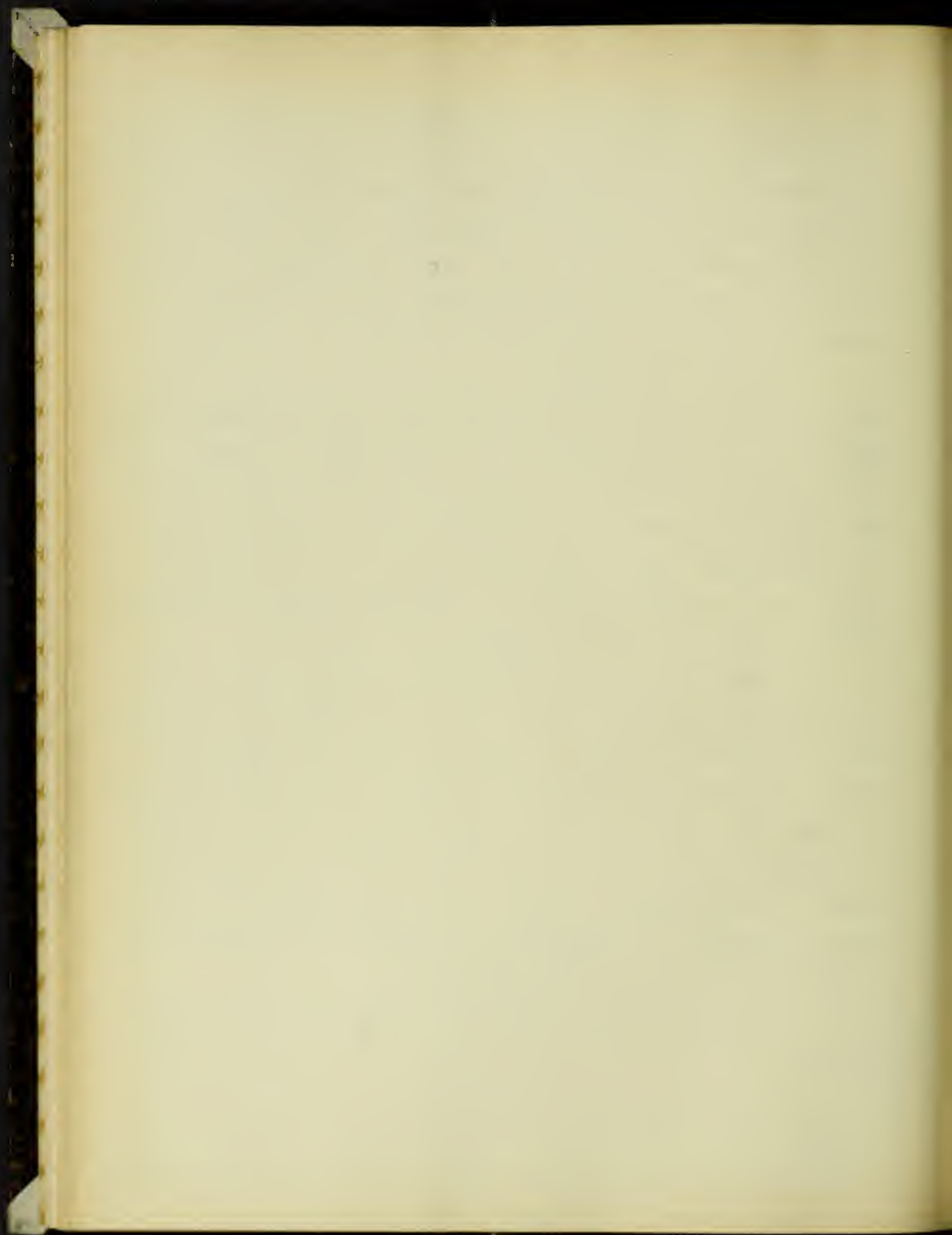
ties of the man himself than in the blindness of the world."

"Under Thoreau's hand the smallest, most ordinary facts attain a mystic significance." This is altogether appreciative. Likewise is the treatment of Emerson in May '67, in July '68, in July '70, and also in the Transcendentalist article in '64. "It is impossible to estimate the influence Emerson has had in chastening the style of writing and speaking in America." Eulogistic the reviewer is in every case.

In Feb. '64, there is a long article on The Life and Writings of Theodore Parker. His collected works edited by Francis Power Cobbe and his Life and correspondence by John Weiss are used as a basis. After a thorough resume of his traits as man and writer the reviewer says, "His literary merits are considerable, but we should not rate them every high." "All of them are distinguished by that thinness which belongs to American writers, as meagerness belongs to American bodies - there is a lean and hungry air about them all."

There is an article on Aaron Burr in March '58 and a very appreciative one on Lincoln in Apr. '61. "It is wonderful that in the midst of movements so violent, interests so deep, and passions so strong, the personality of Mr. Lincoln can be of great importance; yet it surely is." And as we should expect there is lack of admiration for Jefferson Davis. The same attitude we find, too, in May '67 in regard to Andrew Johnson. "There are few Americans who do not feel that an impeachment at this particular juncture of an overbearing and reckless president will be most salutary."

No prejudice then, we have found unless it is in the case of Poe.

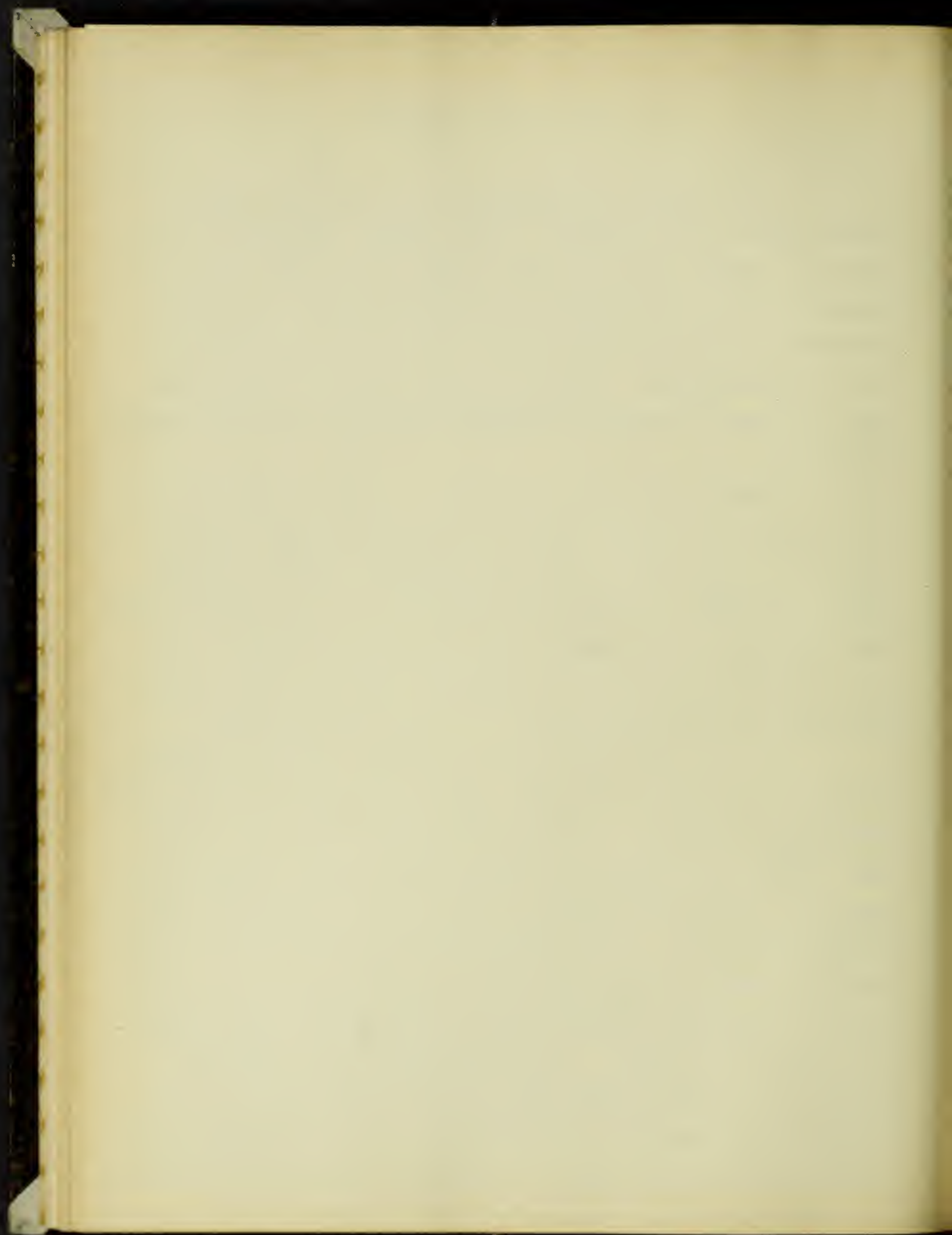


THE CORNHILL MAGAZINE.

This magazine was originated in '60 and during that year nothing American was published. In '61, however, beginning in May we find H. B. Stowe's Agnes of Sorrento coming out in serial form simultaneously with its appearance in the Atlantic Monthly. "A special arrangement having been made with the writer by the proprietors of the Cornhill Magazine." This is the only instance of the publication of an American story in an English magazine, I have found during these years.

Beginning with Jan. '63, there is a series of six articles on a Run through the Southern States, by an English Officer. Only at the last is a prejudice or sentiment noticeable. And as this magazine is peculiarly a literary one, almost free from the editor's presence a policy is hard to notice. It seems though, at least in this article, that the sympathies are Southern. The same thought of the failure of the Republican government is here, too, reiterated.

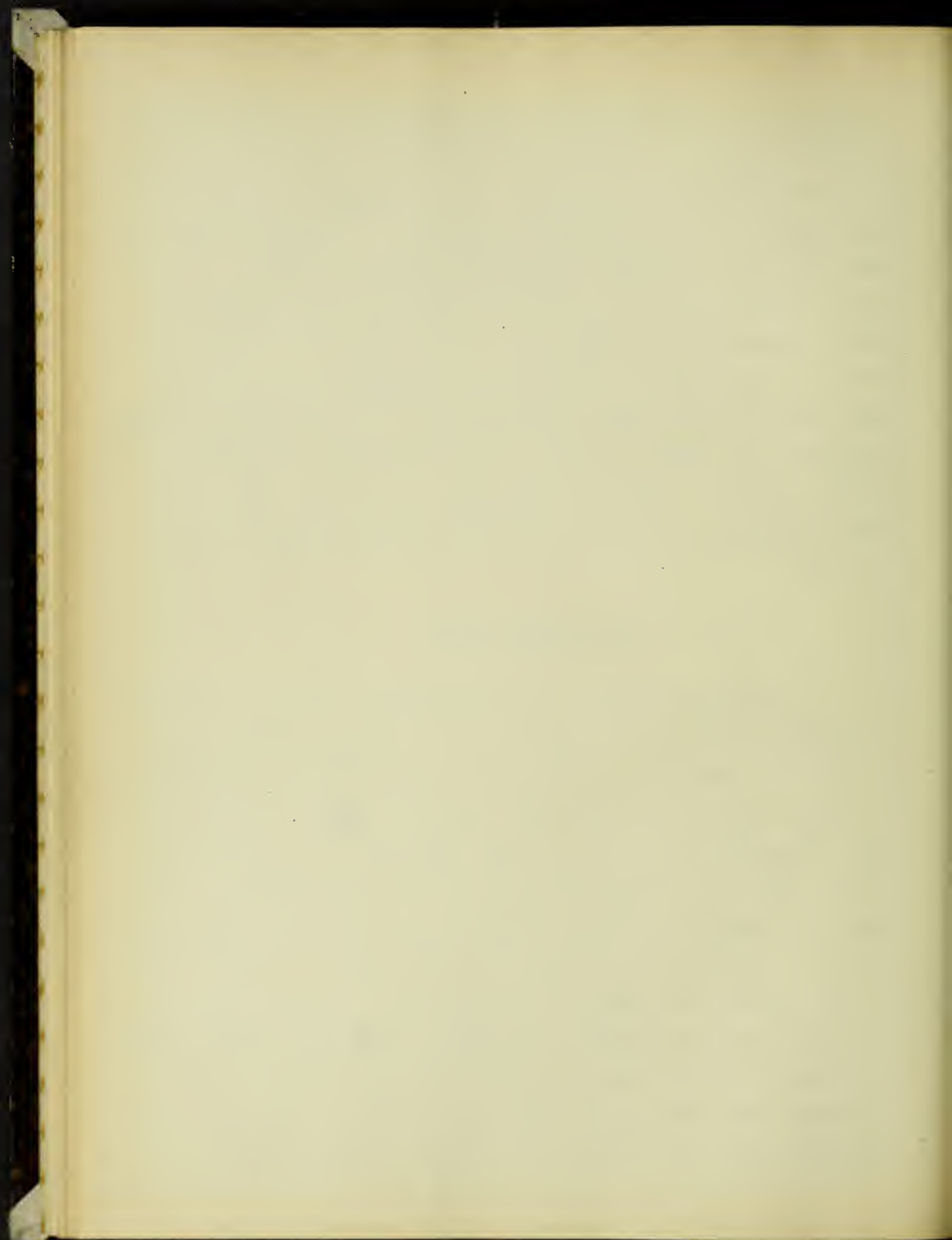
In '64, there is a series of articles, of purely narrative interest on Charleston under Fire. And in July '65, one on The Shoddy Aristocracy of America. This is all during the five years of the war. During the following five years, there are only three articles only one of which is of interest. It is on American Humor and was published in Jan. '66. After speaking rather disparagingly of American letters in general, it says that "For the present, there are no indications of any writer fitted to take his place amongst the intellectual leaders of the world. Theodore Parker, Emerson, Hawthorne, Longfellow and several other names of various merit might be mentioned; but although men of ability none of them can be said to have passed out of a second rank." It emphasizes the imitativeness and



incompleteness of our literature; says it suggests the clever essays of undergraduates. "There is but one distinctly original product of the American mind, its humor." "Artemus Ward is on the whole the best specimen of the last crop of humorists." "Though not very brilliant, he fairly represents the average popular sentiment." "A much higher representative of the political feeling of the country is Mr. Lowell, author of Biglow Papers." Irving and Hawthorne are only mentioned - "Mr. Irving and Mr. Hawthorne showed some very delicate humor, but it was scarcely original enough to be distinctly American." "Dr. Holmes has, however, shown a very distinctive and thoroughly national humor." From the small number of articles, then, we can hardly generalize in regard to the Cornhill's prejudice or lack of prejudice.

THE SATURDAY REVIEW.

In this publication and in the Athenaeum we can, of course, legitimately expect more frequent mention of things American, than in the former magazines, as they are weeklies, and have a department of foreign notices. They deal with "Politics, Miscellaneous,- Reviews, editorials of foreign and home events, and short articles of general interest." and are very much like the early monthlies of the eighteenth century in variety of subject matter and shorter length of articles. So when we find during the fifteen years, a larger number of short notices and reviews as compared with the smaller number in the quarterlies and monthlies, the seeming discrepancy explains itself. Of course, during any period of civil war a nation is in the eyes of the world more than at other times. So we find the notices multiplying rapidly from '61 - '65, as the following table will show:

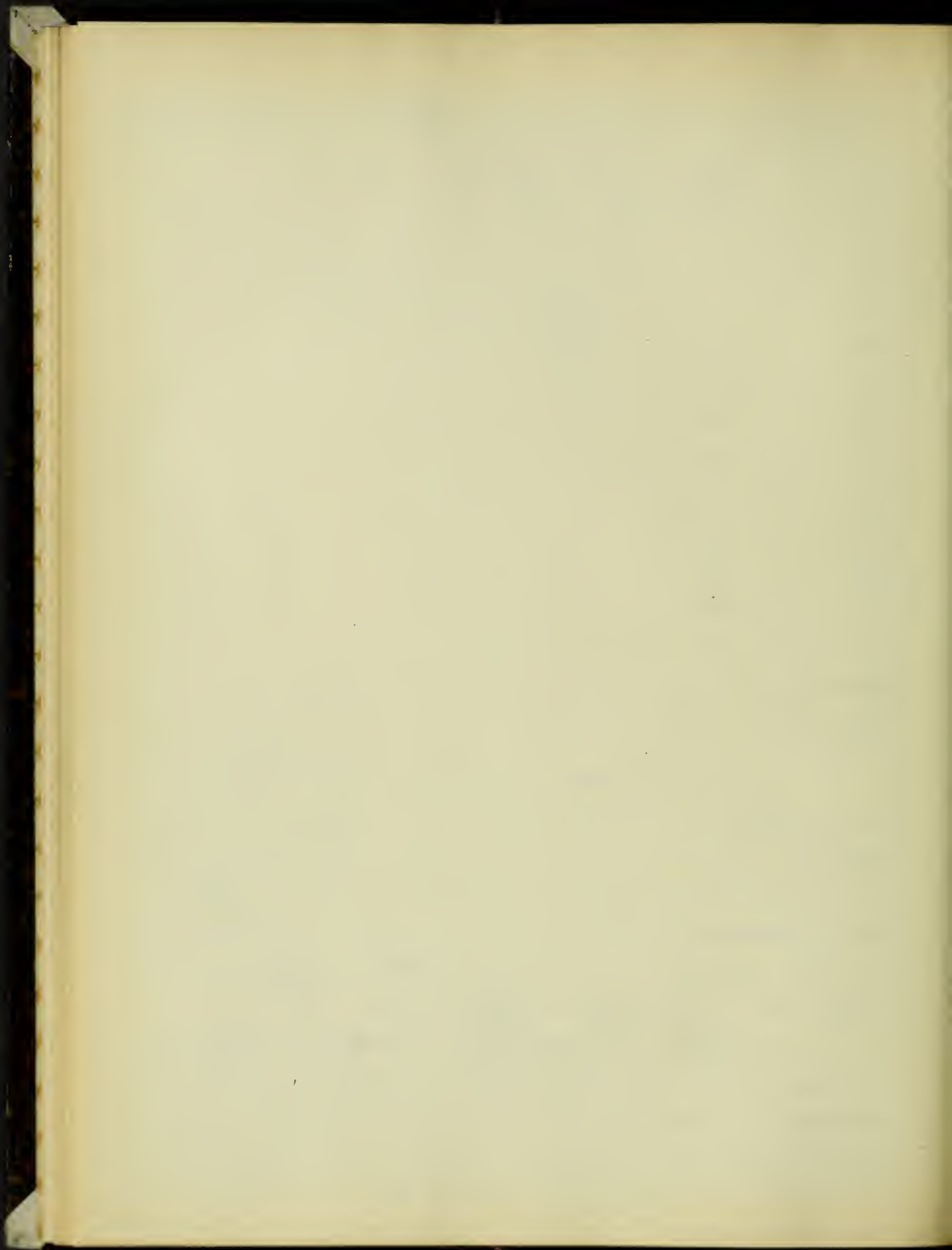


(1) Articles on "Amer." (2) Articles on political subjects connected with America. (3) Reviews. (4) Articles on "American Literature"

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
'56 - - - - -	10 - - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
'57 - - - - -	5 - - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -	- - - - -
'58 - - - - -	5 - - - - -	- - - - -	1 - - - - -	- - - - -
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'63 - - - - -	42 - - - - -	10 - - - - -	1 - - - - -	- - - - -
'64 - - - - -	42 - - - - -	2 - - - - -	1 - - - - -	- - - - -
'65 - - - - -	30 - - - - -	8 - - - - -	1 - - - - -	- - - - -
'66 - - - - -	23 - - - - -	6 - - - - -	7 - - - - -	- - - - -
'67 - - - - -	23 - - - - -	8 - - - - -	5 - - - - -	- - - - -
'68 - - - - -	24 - - - - -	7 - - - - -	12 - - - - -	2
'69 - - - - -	5 - - - - -	5 - - - - -	11 - - - - -	4
'70 - - - - -	5 - - - - -	9 - - - - -	12 - - - - -	7

Although this shows an increase of political articles during the war, there is no such variation in the number of literary articles. This was true in the case of the other magazines, so we would be led to conclude that the intensity of political interest did not influence the amount at least, of literary criticism. The above list shows too that interest in American literature increased greatly after the war and was steadily growing.

In regard to the sympathies of the review, we may say that they changed from a lake-warm Northern advocacy to a violent Southern prejudice. For we find in '56, "On this side the Atlantic popular sympathy is generally enlisted on the side of the Northern States."

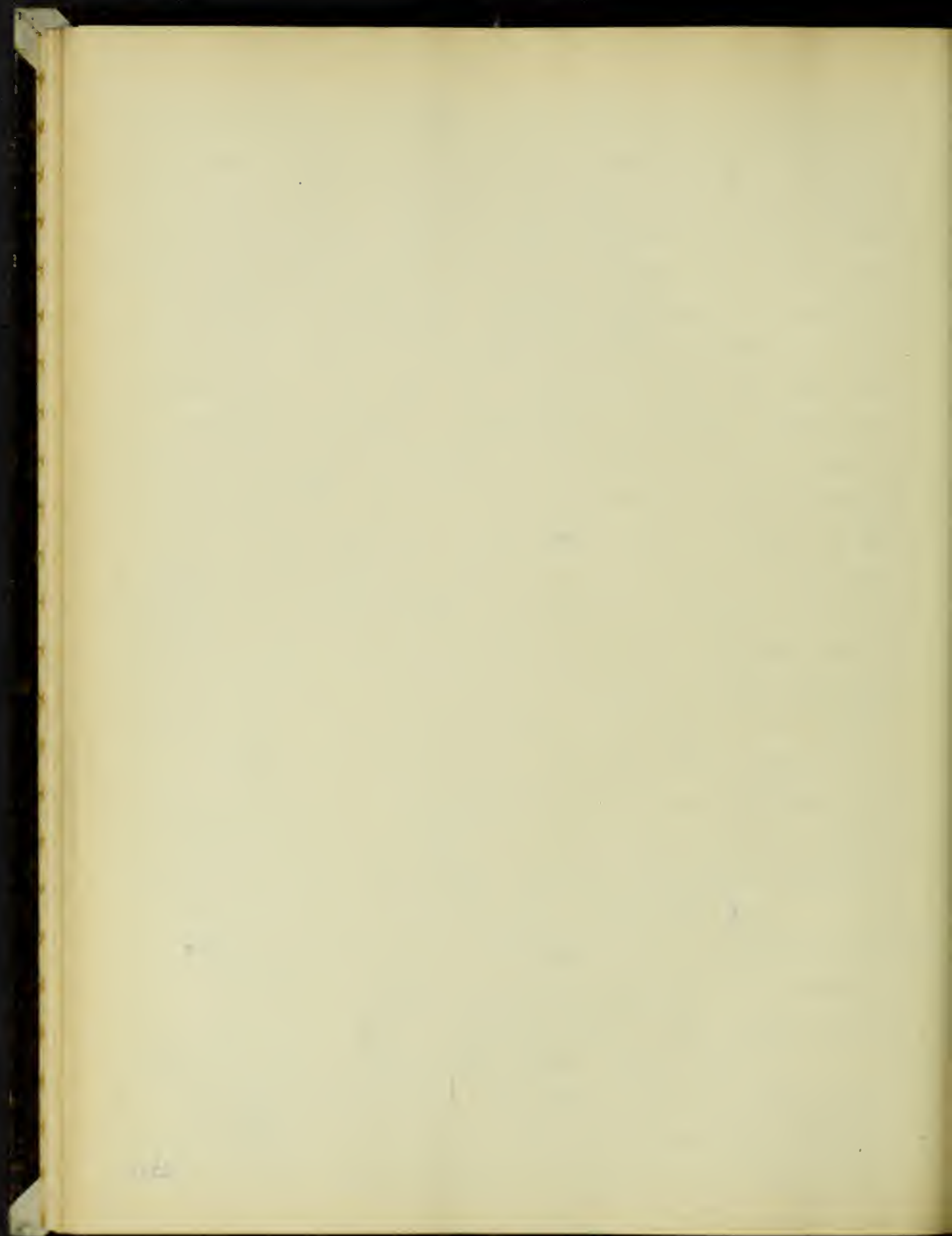


And even in '60 in Dec. 29th, "The probability, indeed, is that England will assist the Black Republicans of the North in preparing a crusade against the new Southern Confederacy." Even as late as '61 we find the review declaring against slavery. "No Southern pleader who wishes to win a verdict at the bar of English opinion must venture to betray any sympathy for slavery." This opinion is, of course, that held almost universally by Englishmen. Whatever their preference was, they stood firmly against that. Nor does the Saturday Review advise recognizing the Confederacy. "We should suffer as meddlers always do, if any fit of generous blundering were to divert us from a vigorous observance of the traditions of international law." In '63, however, southern ardor begins to express itself. "It is known that the North has since the first disunion poured forth an increasing stream of vituperation and menace against the unoffending mother country." "Mr. - - - is right in believing that the Confederacy will hereafter be welcome into the family of sovereign communities." X "It is true that the believers in the high and holy mission of the Federal armies form but a small minority of Englishmen". "The defence of the South is very brilliant." The personal estimates, too, are in harmony with this tendency. Stonewall Jackson X and Jefferson Davis X are eulogized, while Lincoln receives no praise.

Anti Americanism is rife throughout, the language used being only next to that of Blackwood's in its violence, "wanton animosity," "ostentatious virulence." "inveterate hostility", and others suggest the tone used throughout.

Of the literary reviews there are many. In '58 the Courtship of Miles Standish is mentioned. In the article there is a peculiarly unsympathetic reference to Evangeline. The meter is spoken of as that "successful blunder of writing in that clumsy lilt

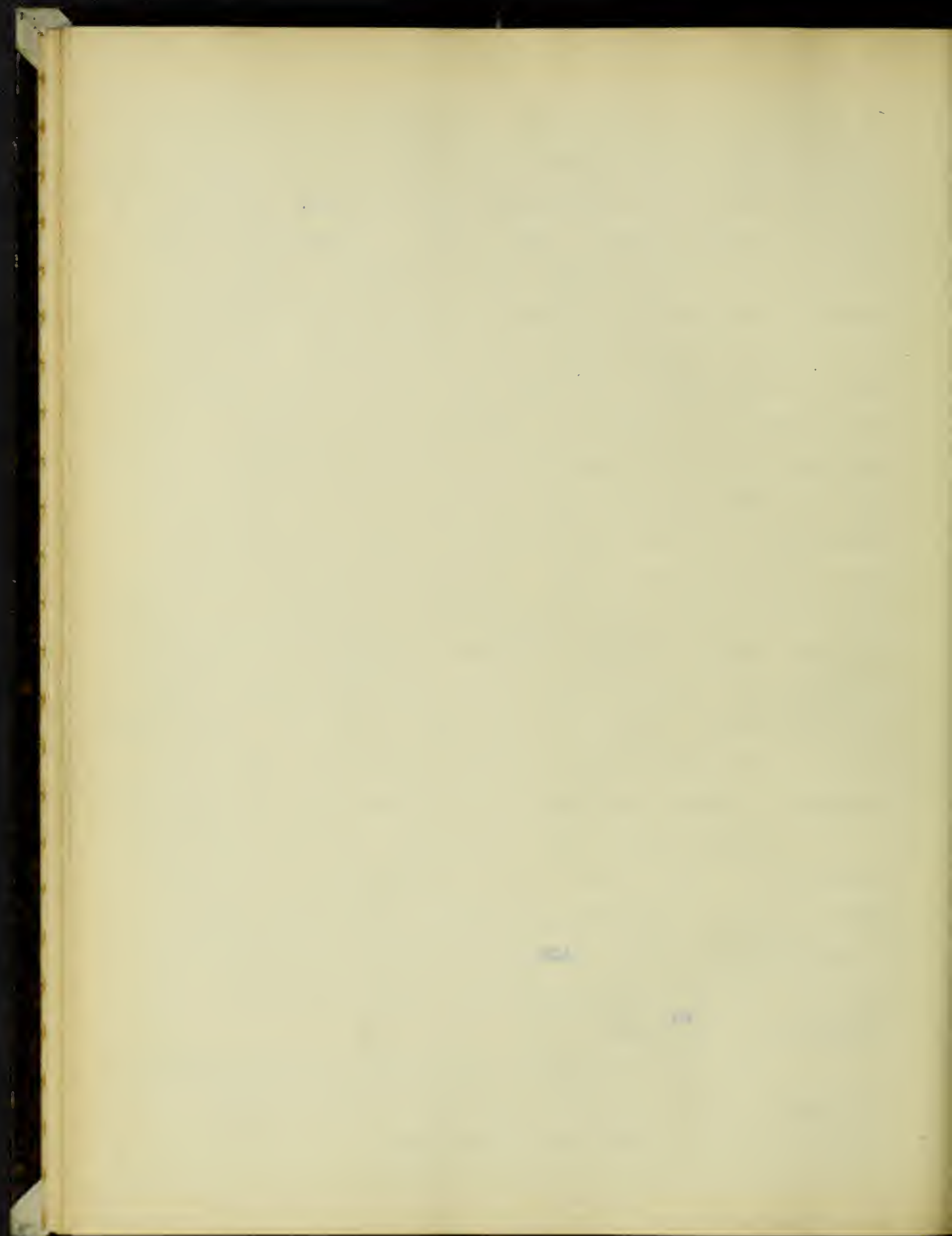
X Feb. '63. X Oct. '63. X Aug. '66.



which mimics the true hexameter." "Mr. Longfellow has with sound judgment sought on the American continent for its scanty poetical associations." In Nov. '63, Longfellow is again noticed, His Tales of a Wayside Inn being reviewed. There is here, a curious lack of appreciation of the American feeling toward Paul Revere. "It is one of the worst and weakest for although our hopes are excited by the description of the preparations, it all comes to nothing, there is no danger, no difficulty in his ride, all he does is to wake people up. We are astonished to hear he is a national hero in America. Surely there are some who have done more than ride fast at night." Then too there is a very harsh and unjust criticism of the Saga of King Olaf. "Everything is bad about it; the subject is bad, the management is bad, the versification is bad." In Dec. '64 Longfellow's New Poems are reviewed and the fact that Longfellow is commonplace is again reiterated. "Milk is suitable for babies, but grown up people require stronger meat." This is true, but the tone used in saying is sarcastic and harsh. In July '67, his Dante is mentioned. "This translation is sufficiently exact to furnish a good text of what is not in Dante." Hardly a good thing has the review to say of Longfellow.

Edward Everett's Mount Vernon Papers are scathingly criticised in '60. "They are poor meager dissertations on any subject that Mr. Everett could think of and write on without any trouble. A large portion consists of insipid recollections of towns made in England." This is perhaps justifiable, for even Americans do not praise this series^{of} essays.

Before the war there is in Apr. 2, '59, an appreciative and sympathetic account of American literature as we could expect. It is after that, that the acrid criticisms are made.

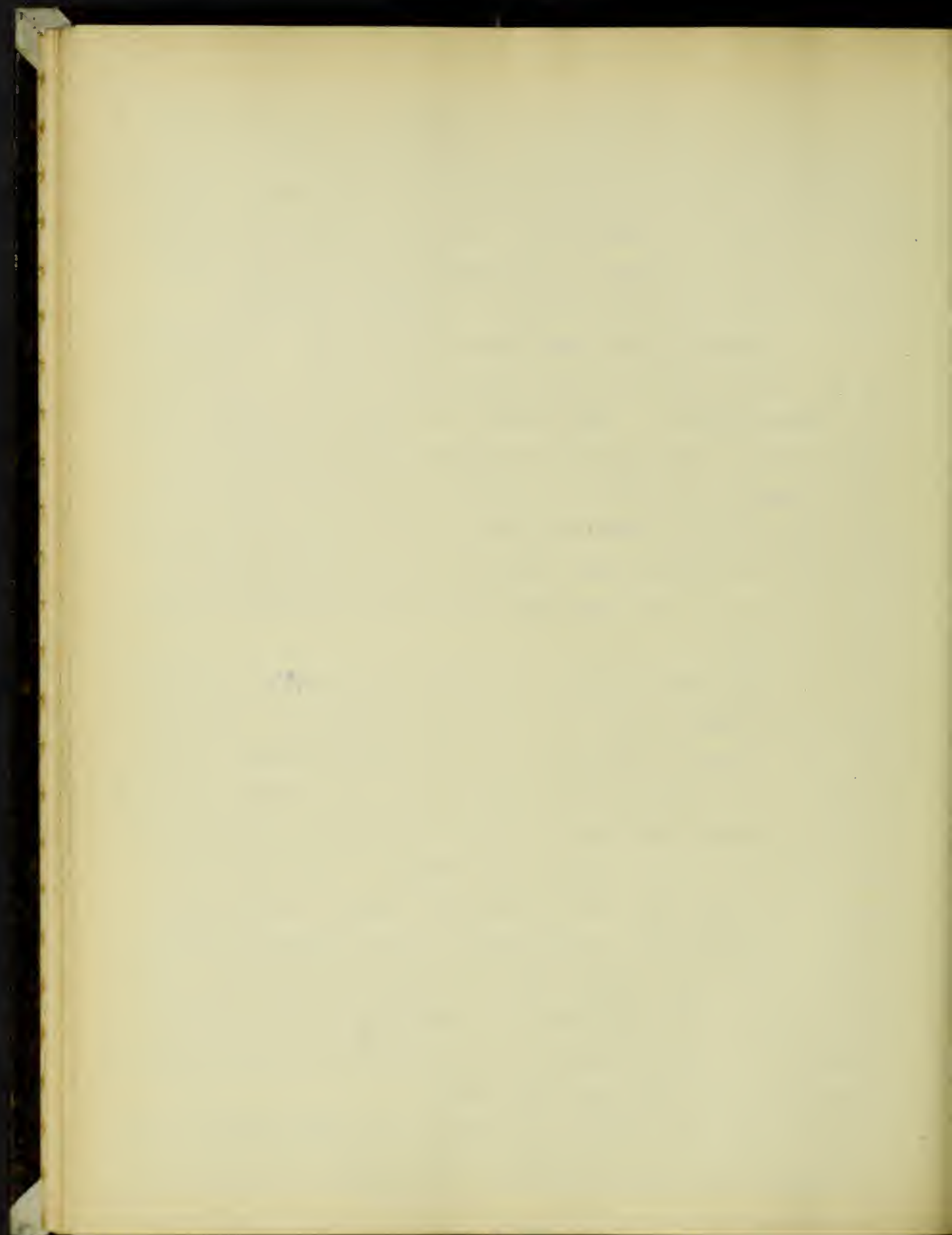


In '61 Elsie Venner is criticised in a more acrid manner than we should expect, unless the judgment were influenced by the Anti-American feeling everywhere evidenced in the journal. "Hardly sufficient power to compensate for its decided touches of vulgarity, or sufficient real pathos to counterbalance the second rate sentimental writing which here and there it certainly contains."

Holmes has not a very delicate hand and not a very artistic touch. He is clever, forcible, epigrammatic, neither finished, genial nor comprehensible." "Elsie Venner is a rough, unfinished, sentimental book." "It is in all friendliness that we trust he may yet write something far better than anything he has hitherto produced." This whole estimate, seems prejudiced, if not by southern sympathies, by intense Anti-Americanism. Holmes is above everything else an American and this very trait might have led the reviewer to depreciate his work.

Henry David Thoreau, "An American Rousseau," and his Excursion are reviewed in Dec. '64. It is very eulogistic. The very fact that Thoreau is different from other Americans seems to be the reason why the reviewer takes a fancy to him. "His habits are at right angles to those of Americans" he says, "The ordinary American 'liquors up' many times a day. Thoreau never drinks." "Caroussing and voting are never absent from an American's thought, Thoreau never votes. Most Americans detest exercise and can generally walk but little better than a Chinese lady; Thoreau walks four miles a day." The estimate of the book seems to be heightened by this contrast. "And now it is time to speak of the volume before us and we cannot do so but in terms of very high admiration."

There is a violent criticism of Henry Ward Beecher in Jan. '65, which seems surely to have been prejudiced. He is scored for



using "the screen of a sacred title to dabble in topics of the most heterogeneous kind. "There is throughout his addresses scarce a pennyworth of the bread of serious truth to all this low comedy talk."

Motley's United Netherlands is reviewed in Dec.'67, and it is less fulsomely praised than in any other magazine. "His manner is far below the level of his matter."

Mr. J. R. Lowell on the other hand, is appreciated. The reviews of his works come, however, in '69 and '70 after the editors have changed their tone somewhat, after they have tried to retract in measure some of the animosity they evinced during the war. Under the Willows and Other Poems, Among My Books are the volumes cited: "It is only **natural to expect** that men of real genius in poetry should write good prose, if they happen to undertake it."

"Mr. Lowell who has been long and widely known on both sides of the Atlantic as a genuine poet, has shown in these six essays this double power."

Nathaniel Hawthorne in Aug.6,'70 is sympathetically spoken of Not so with Mark Twain's Innocents Abroad in Oct.'70. "Perhaps we have persuaded our readers by this time, that Mr. Twain is a very offensive specimen of the **vulgarest** kind of a Yankee. And yet, to say the truth, we have a kind of liking for him. There is a frankness and originality about his remarks which is pleasanter than the mere repetition of stale raptures."

On the whole the criticisms seem biassed. There is a lack of reliability about them that would seem to mean that the judgments were influenced by other things than mere literary worth. Several times, in what should be purely literary reviews some oddity of American customs **or** habits is referred to. Anti-Americanism even more than anti-North feelings seem to ^{have} directed the thought, except in the

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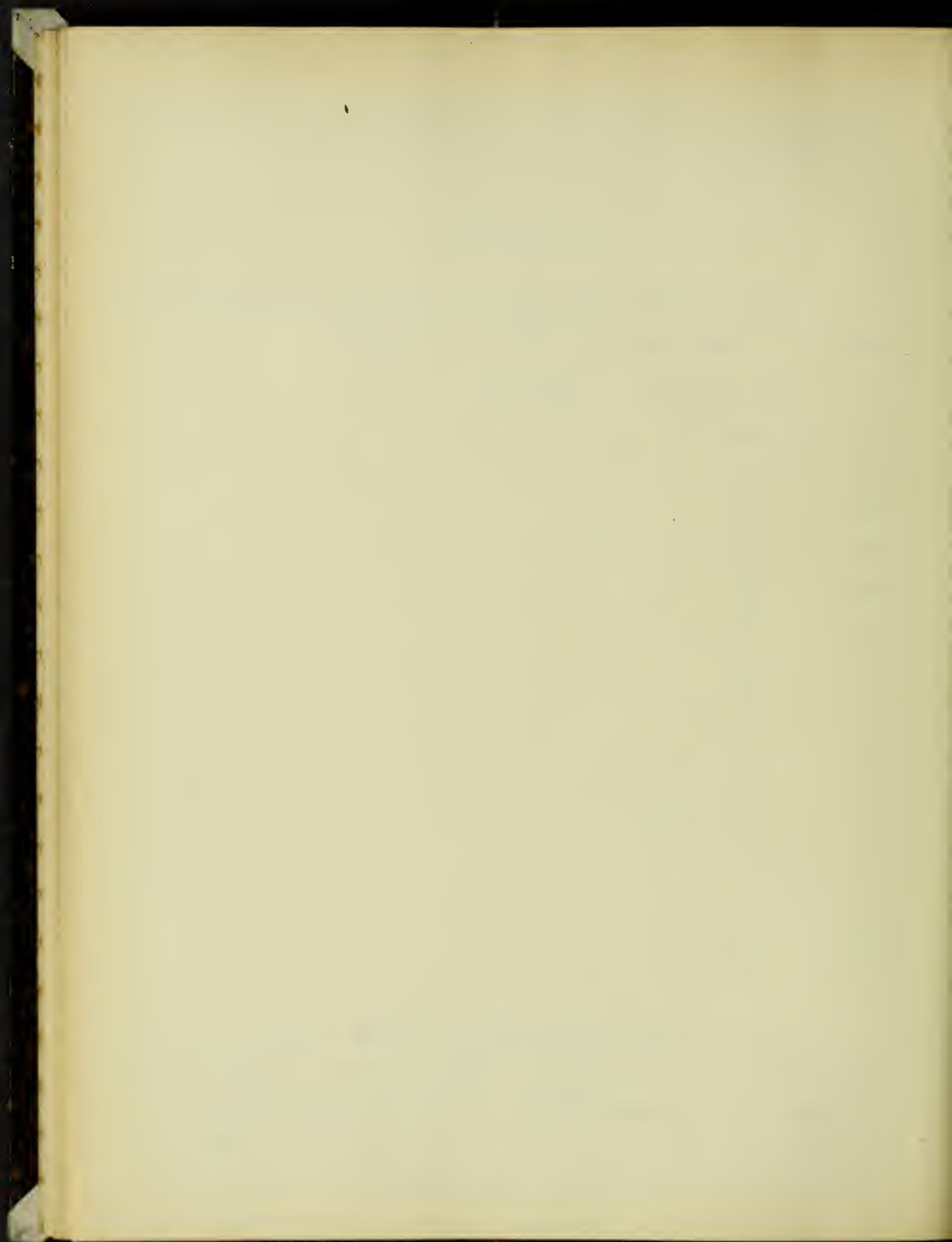
case of H. W. Beecher, where the very ardor of his views seems to have created equal animosity on the part of the reviewer.

THE ATHENAEUM.

The following table shows the variation of the number of the American articles during the fifteen year period.

Pol. articles,	Reviews.
'56 - - - - 25	
'57 - - - - 20	
'58 - - - - 29	
'59 - - - - 22 - - - - - 1	
'60 - - - - 14- - - - - 2	
'61 - - - - 20 - - - - - 2	
'62 - - - - 34 - - - - - 1	
'63 - - - - 48 - - - - - 1	
'64 - - - - 16 - - - - - 4	
'65 - - - - 25 - - - - - 6	
'66 - - - - 32 - - - - - 4	
'67 - - - - 44 - - - - - 4	
'68 - - - - 18 - - - - - 3	
'69 - - - - 35 - - - - - 3	
'70 - - - - 20 - - - - - 3	

Of the three literary articles before the war, all are fair. One is on Bartlett's Dictionary of Americanism and the other on Holmes' Professor at the Breakfast Table, and Prenticeana or Wit and Humor in Paragraphs by the Editor of the Louisville Journal. Both are thorough reviews and seemingly unprejudiced.

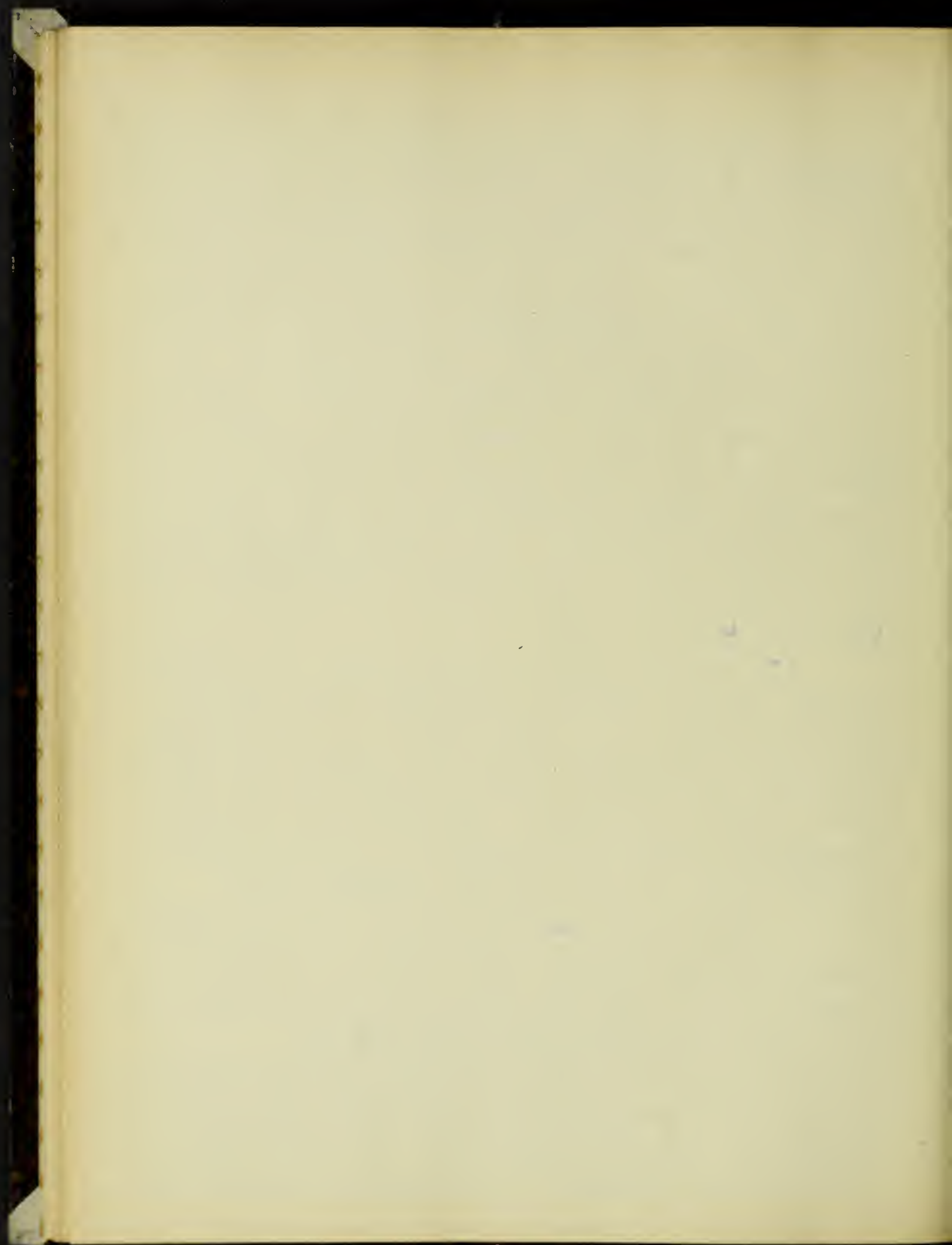


That we find the Athenaeum on the side of the South during the conflict is no surprise. The statements that are made, however, are not so acrid or so hostile as those in the Saturday Review, nor is there such a decided Anti-American attitude apparent as we find in the former publication. In Aug. '62 there is a pretty fair summary of the sentiment of the magazine, which we find is actuated largely by commercial necessities rather than by personal preference. "In their hearts the English friends of the South lean towards her simply because they want her cotton." "Acutely regretting the rupture of the Union, we have from the first maintained that the South had a constitutional right to secede." "We stand in need of a slave holding Federation as a business connection." And of the Anti-American statements the following is typical, from an article on Wendell Phillips' Speeches Lectures and Letters in ---'64.

"In the United States talk asserts itself. It is pastime, business, high art, intellectual recreation, religious exercise. Volubility, smartness, a high pitched voice, a turn for vivacious personality and unscrupulous recklessness of assertion are qualities which they hold in high esteem." "Democratic institutions would satisfactorily account for the existence of a numerous class of political spouters and for the low tone of Congress oratory."

From this rather mild antagonism, we should not expect prejudiced literary judgments. On the whole, we do receive fair treatment, but it is here that we find one article, extremely unjust, which must have been written under ardent prejudice.

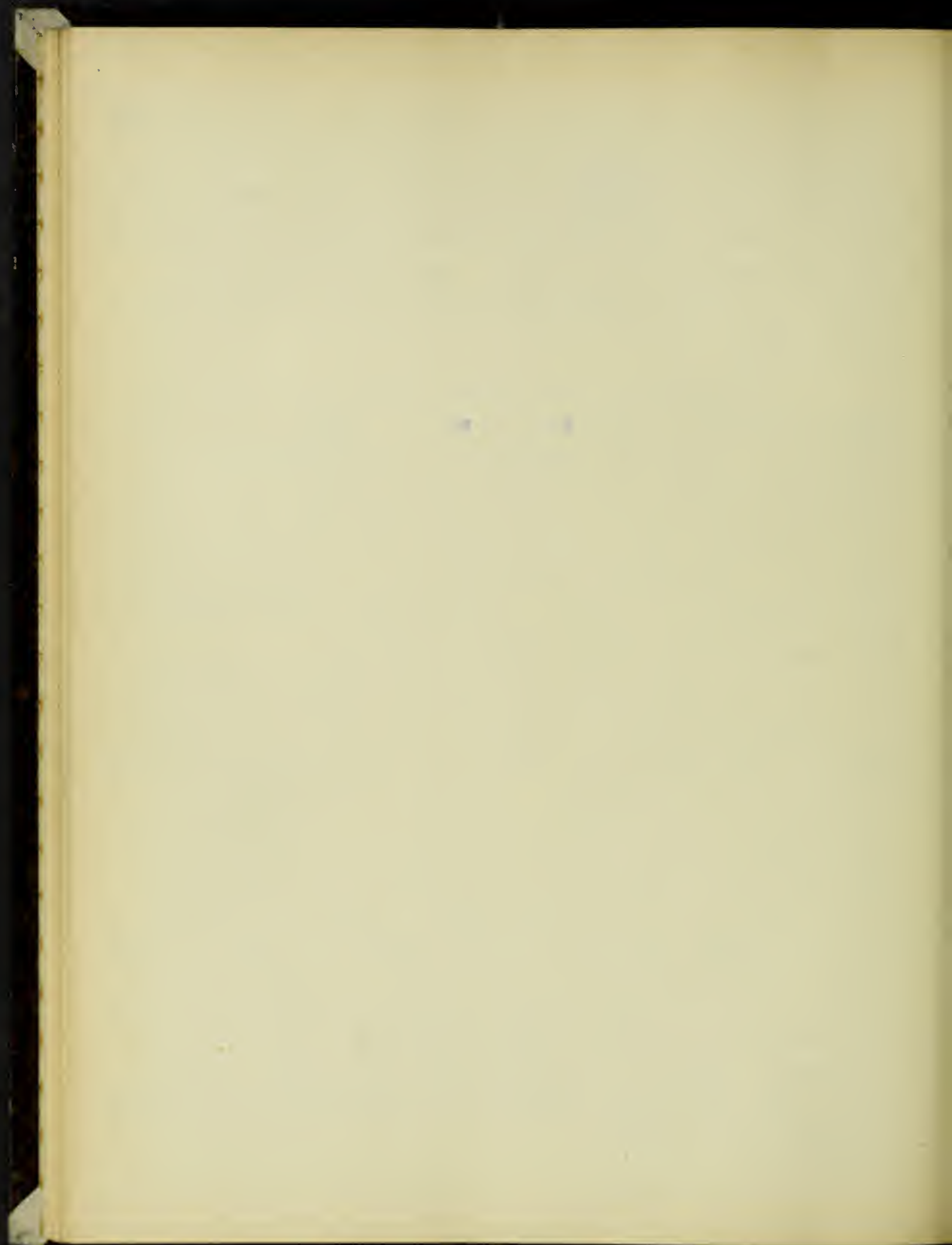
The following judgments, however, are just: O.W. Holmes' Elsie Venner, in '61 p. 59, and his Soundings from the Atlantic, Feb. '64 are fairly appreciated. "No English readers need be told that Dr. Holmes cannot be other than agreeable. Their verses are charming in their



geniality, having many excellent qualities besides. He has invention and that of peculiar national quality. There has been nothing for years more original in fiction than the ideas of Elsie Venner, which only failed of making a deep impression on people because of the drolleries, which were probably meant as relief. Want of proportion may be alleged as the reason why Dr. Holmes fails to take rank among first class authors.

J. G. Whittier's *Home Ballads and Poems* in '61 p. 273, are praised regardless of their northern ardor. "Here is a poet worth waiting for, a poet worth listening to. He may not ascend any lofty hill of vision, but he clearly a seer according to his range. It has the healthy tone of Yankee soil with the wine of fancy poured over it." "Mr. Whittier has many admirers in this country to whom this volume will be welcome." His *Prose Works* is also reviewed in Feb. '67 and the same friendly attitude maintained.

H. B. Stowe's *Agnes of Sorrento* is reviewed in '62 p. 666, and in Sept. '69, there is a reference to her attack in the *Atlantic Monthly* on Lady Byron, which created such a stir in England and was so violently refuted in *Fraser's*. Of the latter the reviewer says: "She submits no proof, beyond her own word of the deplorable charge. She has created a sensation but at the expense of her reputation." Of the former "This tale will not advance the author's reputation, which has indeed, been steadily sliding downward ever since the first days." "She has produced something as poor, as hectic and occasionally exceptional in point of taste as though it had been signed Anne of Swansea, instead of the author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*." This, indeed, seems unduly harsh, possibly it is so on account of the southern sympathies of the review.



J. R. Lowell's Biglow Papers are reviewed in '62 p.251, and his Fireside Travels in '64. Of the former the editor says, "Thank you Mr. Lowell, for another batch of Biglow Papers." "So calm a tone, so resolute a spirit," He is grateful for the comic muse, sympathetic and appreciative. In '64, however, the praise is not warm. "Much of the book is merely garrulous". "We admit the clever pointing of details, but no art of narration can carry off their frequent insipidity."

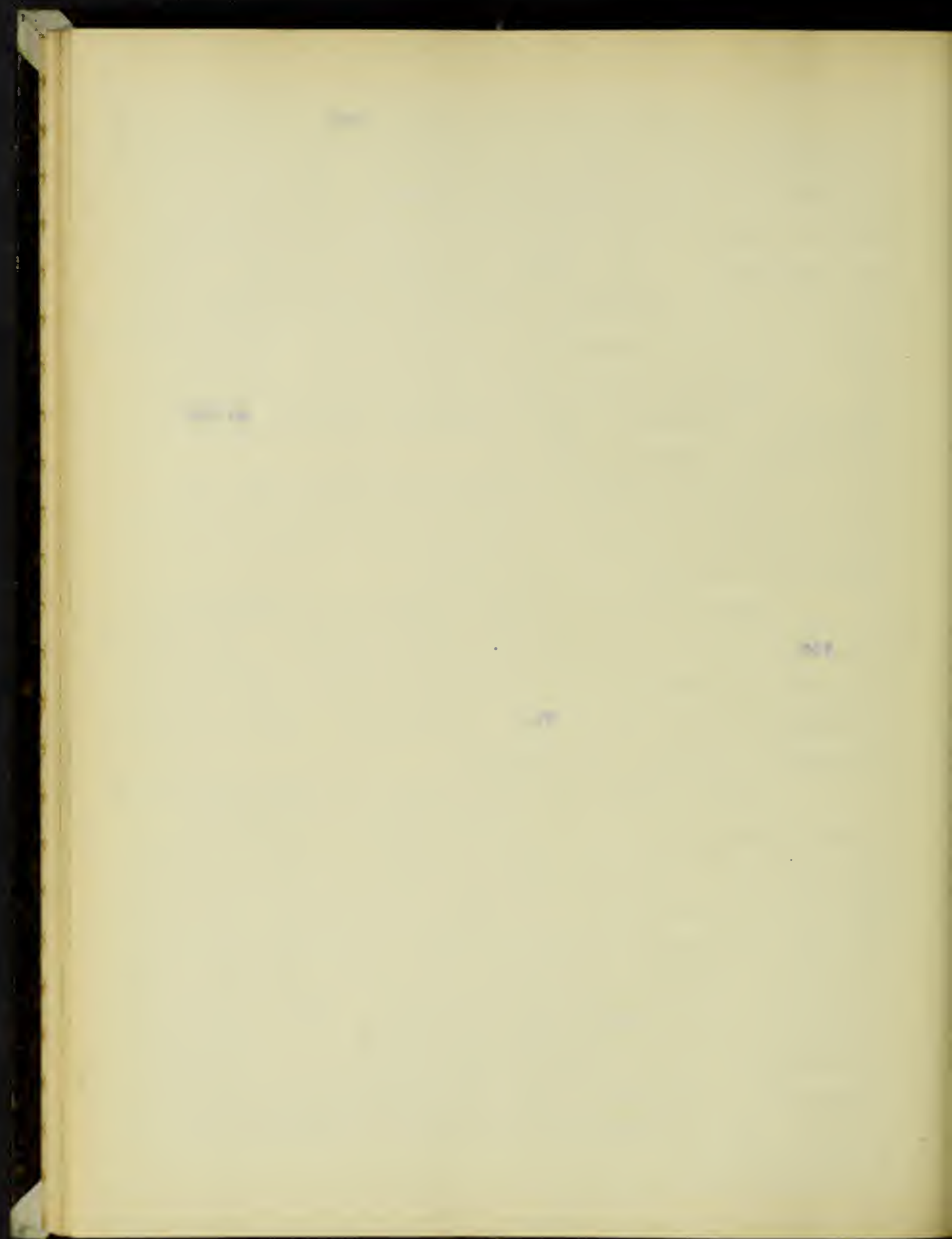
Washington Irving's Life and Letters by his nephew and L. Fairfax's The Elopement in May '63 are fairly spoken of, so too is Augusta Evans' Macaria in July '64.

Hawthorne's Pansie is warmly praised in Apr. '65. "As minute, touching and perfect as anything the author ever wrote. We cannot give this sketch too high praise."

Wendell Phillips is treated sarcastically in an article on his Speeches, Letters and Lectures. "He is no new man. For more than a quarter of a century he has been before the public, spouting about the Rights of Women, and the Ways of the Slave." "He has no logic, no system, no anything, but harangue."

Theodore Parker is, however, though an ardent abolitionist warmly lauded in Aug. '64, in a similar article on his Life and Correspondence, and Collected Works, the former edited by John Weiss, the latter by Frances Cobbe. "The man's life, not less than his writings will repay patient study and for many a day command attention. It contains instruction for minds of every calibre and will captivate readers who have no sympathy with his views." "There is pleasure in the knowledge that as he passed through England he received strong proofs of the affectionate regard entertained for him in Great Britain."

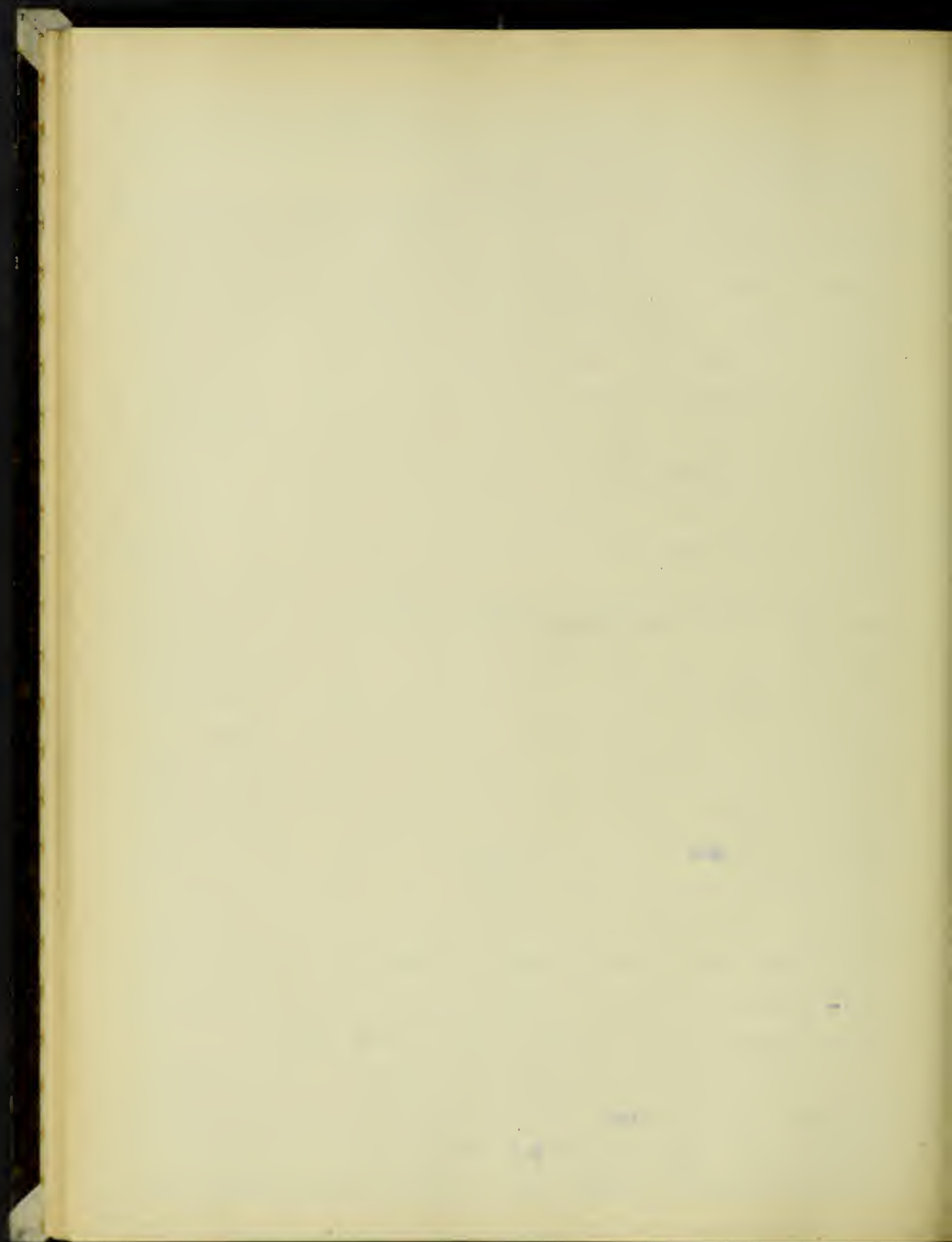
Horace Greeley's American Conflict is reviewed in May '65 with no prejudice.



The Life and Administration of A. Lincoln, compiled by G. V. Bacon receives the same fair treatment..

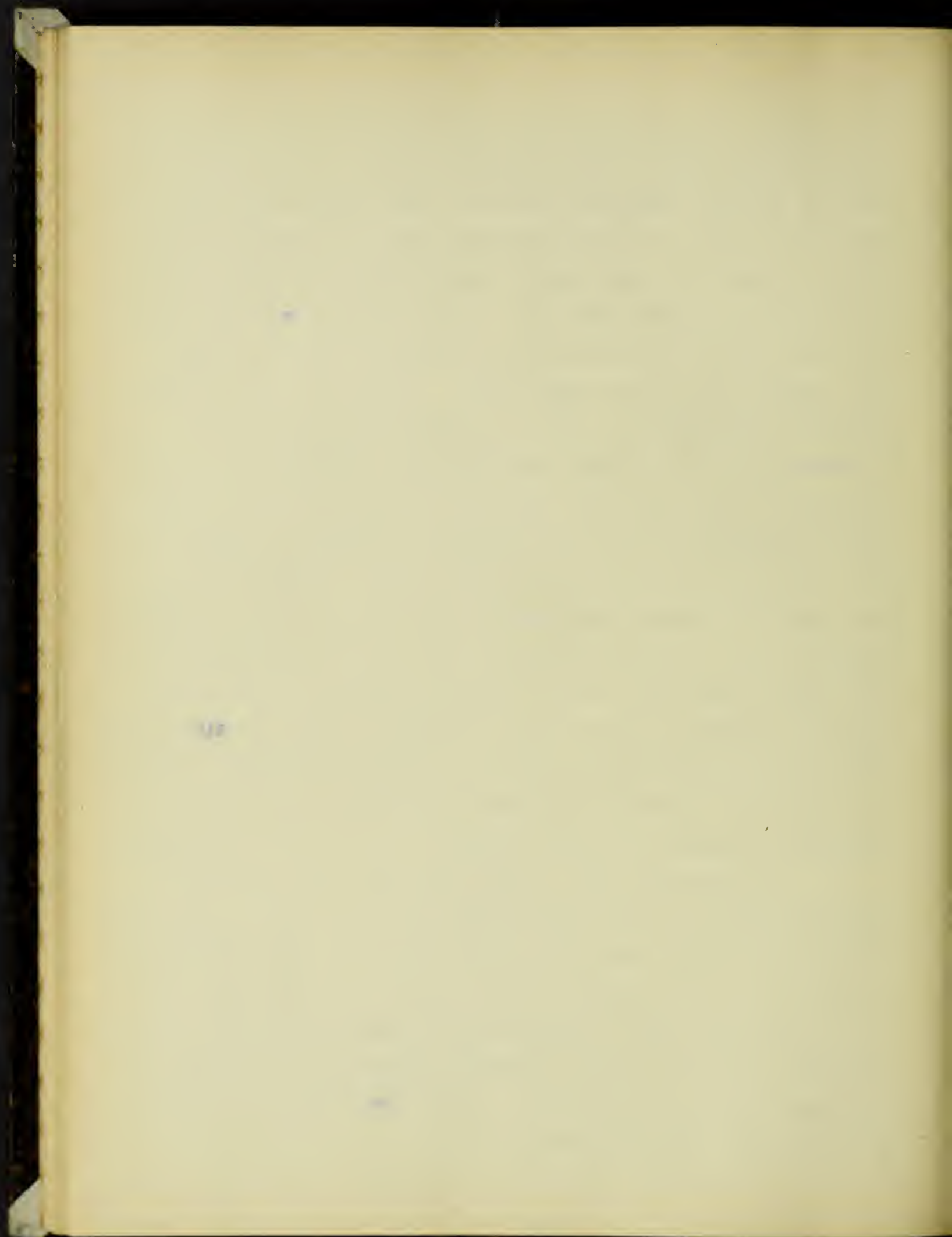
We come now to the extremely unjust estimate of Artemus Ward, already referred to, in Apr. '65, "By ingenious impudence that is often accepted by multitudes for genuine humor, a young printer, known to his familiar companions as Charles F. Brown, has since the outbreak of the Black War rendered himself one of the most notorious, and in the opinion of certain critics one of the most brilliant of American citizens. Under the name of Artemus Ward he is just now the bright, conspicuous star of Transatlantic rowdyism." "Hopes are held out to us that this darling of free and enlightened America will brighten London with his presence and eloquence, when the idlers of New York have grown tired of his entertainment at Dodworth Hall." "He excels ^{that shrewd, shameless, irreverent slang of} as an utterer of the loquacious ~~haunters~~ of New York bars delight to pour upon every earthly topic." "The vituperative egotism and comical effrontery of his tone and temper are almost as piquant as they are unpleasant." Nor does this tone change. In Dec. '65, in a review of the Sparrowgrass Papers the editor again refers to Ward's vulgarity of humor. And again in '66 Artemus Ward among the Fenians the same hostile spirit is shown. Just what made the Athenaeum pick out Artemus Ward for such violent criticism I do not know. The general spirit of the magazine is not such that we would expect such a biased judgment. Indeed, in Feb. '67 decided pro-American sentiments are discernible and even in '64 the policy of the journal was only mildly southern or Anti-American.

The literary names given notice after the war are George Bancroft, and his History of the United States in Nov. '66, Edwin E. Whipple and his Character and Characteristic Men, and Henry D. Thoreau, a Yankee in Canada, both in Feb. '67, Bayard Taylor, and



his Picture of St. John in Jan. '67, Alice Cary's Ballads, Lyrics and Hymns, Elizabeth Aker's Poems, Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography in Aug. '68, Nathaniel Hawthorne's Passages from American Note Books, in Dec. '68, and July '70, Francis Parkman's France and England in North America in July '68, Mark Twain's Innocents Abroad in Sept. '70, and an article on Longfellow, Dec. '70. There are also two lives, one of Jefferson Davis, by Craven, and one of Stonewall Jackson, by Cook and Dabney, both in Aug. 4, Sept. 29, '66. Every one of the literary judgments is laudatory. There is absolutely no trace of the acrimony shown in the Artemus Ward articles. The reviewer even goes so far as to say, "Of course, there is an imposing roll of American authors who have been thoroughly adopted as captains of thought by the intellectual rank and file of this country. Longfellow is not less popular in London than Tennyson in New York or Boston; Cooper is read in Old, almost as widely as Walter Scott in New England. The novels of Washington Irving are as much works of universal and permanent interest in the cities and villages of Great Britain as the tales of Charles Dickens are affairs of familiar conversation throughout the Union; Bancroft and Holmes are names that glitter on the shelves of every well furnished library on this side of the Atlantic."

In conclusion then, we find that twenty eight different men were noticed by these eight reviews during the fifteen year period under consideration. Some were reviewed more than once, there being sixty five articles in all. Of these three in the Edinburgh, five in the Quarterly, eight in Westminster's, four in Blackwood's, nine in Fraser's, one in the Cornhill Magazine, fifteen in the Saturday Review and twenty in the Athenaeum. As to their distribution through the years, the following table will tell:

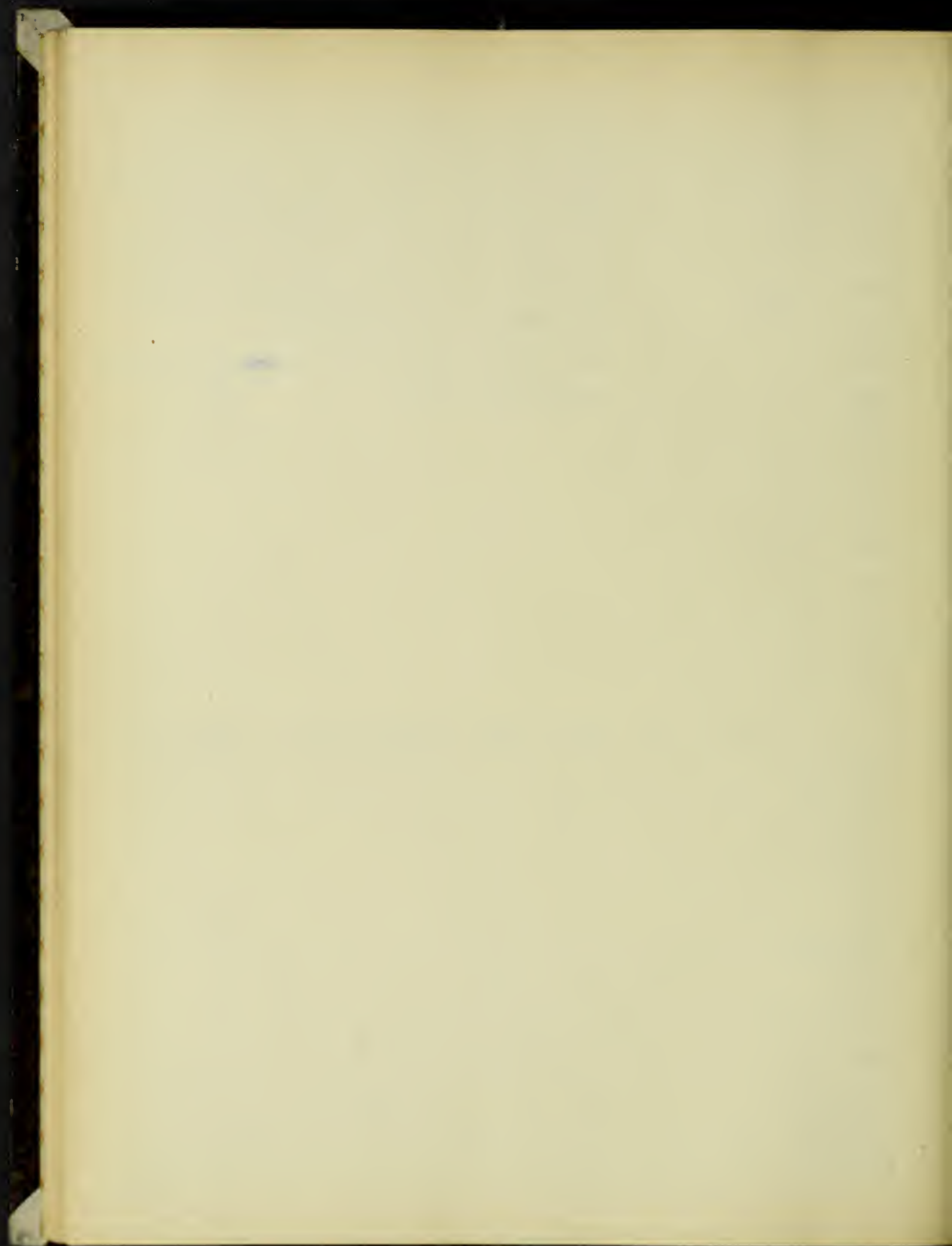


'56 - - - 4
 '57 - - - 2
 '58 - - - 2
 '59 - - - 3
 '60 - - - 1
 '61 - - - 10
 '62 - - - 3
 '63 - - - 2
 '64 - - - 12
 '65 - - - 2
 '66 - - - 4
 '67 - - - 6
 '68 - - - 5
 '69 - - - 2
 '70 - - - 5

This shows that there were more literary articles even during the war than either before or after. It also shows that during the years '61 and '64 when the political excitement was greatest, the number of literary articles was also greatest.

As to which authors were reviewed the following table will indicate:

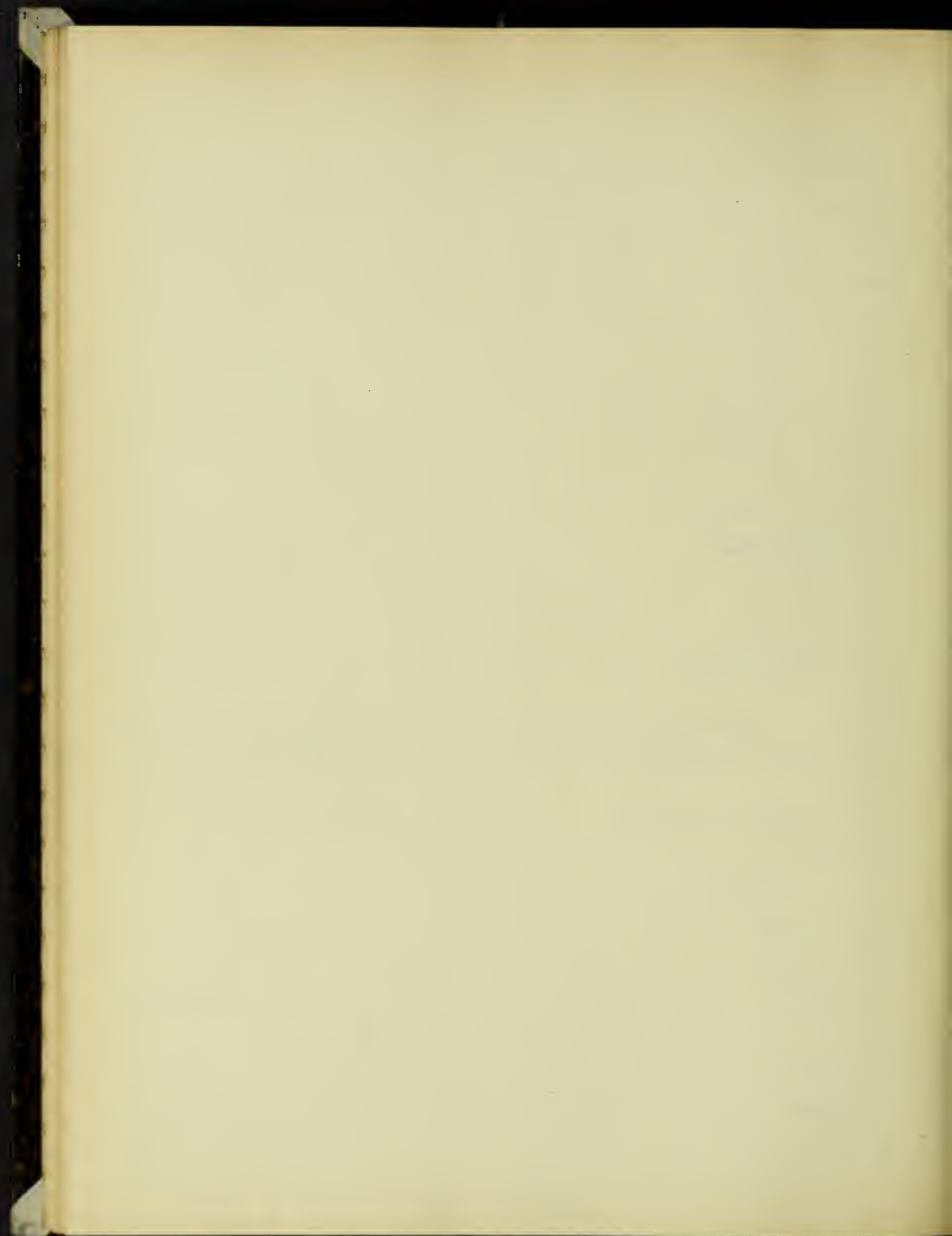
	Edin.	Quar.	West.	Black.	Fraser,	Cornhill,	Sac.R.,	Ath.
Longfellow	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4 - - 1
Whittier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Emerson	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	3 - - - 1 - - -
Holmes	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1 - - 1
Poe	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	- - - - -
Hawthorne	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1 - - 1
Motley	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	1 - - - -
Artemus Ward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Mark Twain	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1 - - 1
H.B.Stowe	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	- - - 2
Prescott	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	- - - - -
Thoreau	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1 - - 1



	Edin.	Quar.	West.	Black.	Fraser.	Cornhill.	SacR.	Ath.
H. W. Beecher	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Olmstead	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Lowell	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-1
Bay Taylor	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Mrs. Childs	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Theod. Parker	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
G. W. Curtis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wash. Irving	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wendell Phillips	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Alice Cary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Elizabeth Akers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Francis Parkman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ed. Everett	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Augusta Evans	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Benjamin Franklin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Noticing this table somewhat more in detail, we can tabulate the authors according to the numbers of reviews given them.

	Number of reviews.	Number of different journals.
H. B. Stowe	- 6 -	- 5
R. W. Emerson	- 6 -	- 4
J. L. Motley	- 5 -	- 4
Longfellow	- 6 -	- 3
Hawthorne	- 4 -	- 4
Lowell	- 4 -	- 3
Thoreau	- 3 -	- 3
Prescott	- 3 -	- 2
E. A. Poe	- 2 -	- 2



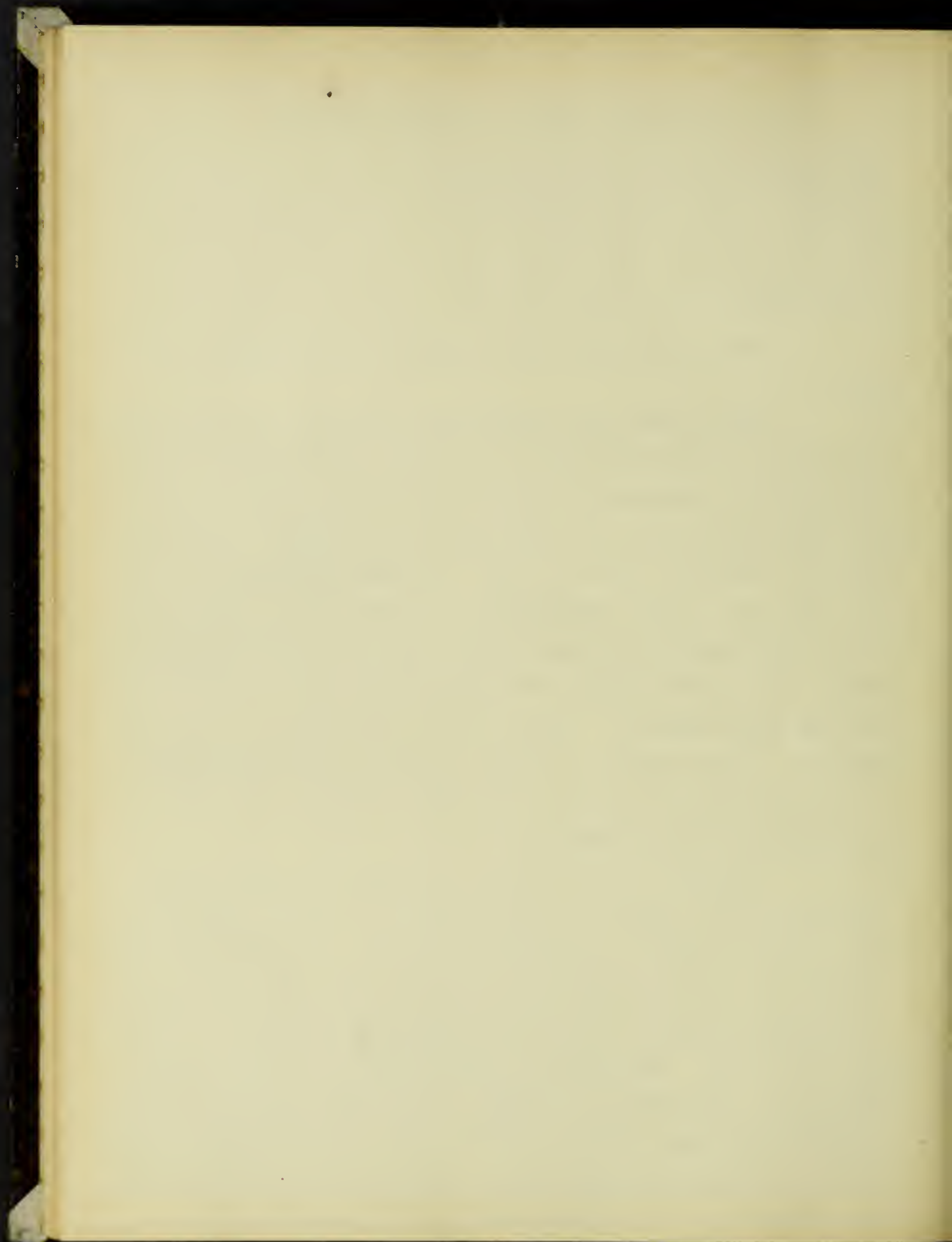
Number of reviews. Number of different journals.

Mark Twain	- - 2	- - - - -	2
Olmstead	- - 2	- - - - -	2
Whittier	- - 2	- - - - -	1
Artemus Ward	- 2	- - - - -	1

Every other author was reviewed but once by but one magazine.

There are but two reviews of Poe and both of these are unjust whether the fact that both appear in journals of northern sentiments, influenced the estimates, we can only conjecture. Whether too, the Quarterly was biassed in its apparently unjust sentiment toward Hawthorne is likewise a matter of doubt. Longfellow is praised but not too fulsomely in every review except in the ones in the Saturday Review. The attitude here seems not only unjust, but unsympathetic and harsh. So too, does Holmes find appreciative readers in all but the Saturday Review editors. Motley is universally praised, as too, is Emerson. Artemus Ward is violently attacked by the Athenaeum and these invectives seem surely to have been prejudiced. The other authors received fair treatment.

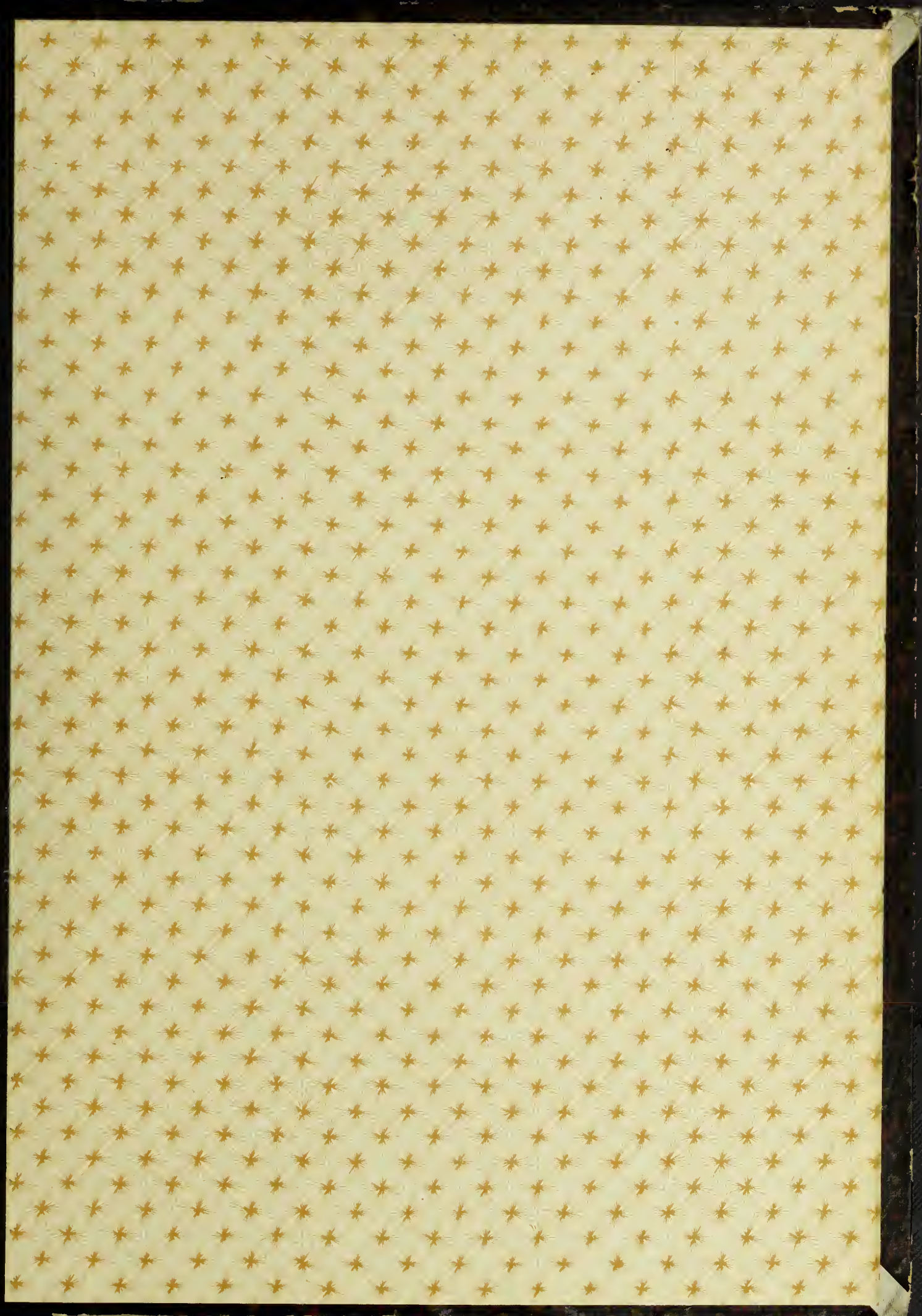
Perhaps it would be well to enumerate the names of note which were wholly ignored by all the journals. Just why Walt Whitman is given no notice is certainly a question. The only reference to him, even, is in the Westminster Review in Oct. '70 in an article on American Literature. Here three paragraphs are devoted to him; but this is all. His Leaves of Grass appeared in '55 and his Drum Taps in '65, but neither is noticed. Nor is there a mention of Hawthorne's Marble Faun, which came out in '60. That Bret Harte should have been ignored also seems strange, especially in view of his later life in England. His Condensed Novels which appeared in '67 are



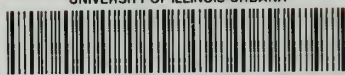
given no notice whatever. Hale's Man without a Country, and Miss Alcott's Little Women, as well as several other books of partial note are utterly ignored by the magazines, just why, we can only conjecture.

Sixty five reviews of American authors during fifteen years seems like a goodly number, but if we turn a moment to our own journals and compare the cognizance they take of English literary names, the importance of the number immediately dwindles. For during the same fifteen years, the Atlantic Monthly alone contained eighty-five different articles on thirty-eight different authors. Of course, English literature was more luxuriant than American, and the American journals were very prone to turn to English authors for their models and authorities; but even then the comparison undoubtedly shows that English journals were at that time still conservative in their estimate of the value of American works. They were fair, however, on the whole, and only in a very few instances let partisan prejudice influence their literary judgments.





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